

THE TIMES

The cloud over
Mr Callaghan's
silver lining, p 14

Scottish devolution 'guillotine' is carried by 26 votes

The Government had an unexpectedly high majority of 26 in last night's Commons vote for a 'guillotine' measure limiting debate on the Scottish devolution Bill. Voting was 313 to 287. Nine Labour MPs joined Conservatives to vote in the 'Noes' lobby. Later voting on a guillotine for the Welsh devolution Bill produced a government majority of 27. Voting was 314 to 287.

Wales vote through by 27

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Dying Mr Biko was taken on 750-mile overnight drive

From Nicholas Ashford
Pretoria, Nov 16
Steve Biko, the South African Black Consciousness leader, was placed in the back of a Land-Rover and driven 750 miles from Port Elizabeth to Pretoria just a few hours before he died on September 12. This was stated on the third day of the inquest into Mr Biko's death by Captain D. P. Siebert, a member of the security police team which interrogated Mr Biko for five days until his death. Evidence was also heard from Colonel Piet Goossens, the divisional commander of the security police in the Eastern Cape. Both Colonel Goossens and Captain Siebert claimed to have evidence that Mr Biko was involved in violent subversive activities including setting up a united revolutionary front, an allegation also made yesterday by another security policeman, Major Harold Snyman. Mr Sydney Kenridge, counsel for the Biko family, again interjected that the security police were trying to smear Mr Biko after his death. Under cross-examination by Mr Kenridge, Captain Siebert said he had been ordered to drive Mr Biko to Pretoria in a Land-Rover. A military aircraft was not available. Mr Biko was naked when placed in the vehicle since a naked man was less likely to try to escape. Blankets were provided. According to Captain Siebert's evidence, the policemen who accompanied Mr Biko in the Land-Rover had no training as medical orderlies nor any equipment with them except a water container. Medical documents were not taken on the journey because it was believed that medical facilities would be available at Pretoria. When the inquest opened on Monday the court heard that Mr Biko had been held naked while being held in the cells at Walmer police station near Port Elizabeth before his interrogation. Before being moved to Pretoria, Mr Biko had been found lying on the cell floor with foam round his mouth, breathing rapidly and with a glazed look in his eyes. Captain Siebert remarked today that Mr Biko "manifested a deep breathing process" during the night-time journey three quarters of the way across South Africa to Pretoria. However, he insisted that at the time he did not believe Mr Biko was really ill. Doctors in Port Elizabeth had not been able to find anything wrong and he thought he might be shamming. He admitted that on arrival in Pretoria, a medical orderly, Sergeant Pretorius, had told him Mr Biko looked seriously ill and that he feared for his life. Later, under cross-examination by counsel for the police, Mr P. R. van Rooyen, Captain Siebert said he had been told that Mr Biko was ill. Continued on page 5, col 8

Leyland to be split up into four companies in Edwardes shake-up

By Edward Townsend
Mr Michael Edwardes yesterday unveiled his plan for a dramatic shake-up of British Leyland's top management, aimed at the devolution of power to four newly-created subsidiary companies and a streamlining of decision-making. In a scheme devised rapidly by Mr Edwardes during his first two weeks in the top Leyland seat, the holding company board of directors becomes largely a non-executive body. A new advisory board is created, comprising executives from the operating companies and headquarters. Its role will be to provide a forum at which all overall problems and opportunities of British Leyland can be debated and action programmes put forward. The plan, endorsed by the National Enterprise Board, will mean the closure of the company's headquarters at Marylebone and the redeployment of the majority of its 550 corporate staff. Redundancies were said to be inevitable. Mr Edwardes said his plan was a further step in the process of decentralization begun in 1975—after the Ryder report on British Leyland. The possibility of further "evolution" over the next 12 months was being studied. The main elements of the new structure of Leyland's corporate management will be a board of directors, the advisory board, a strategy panel, management resources panel and investment panel. Mr Alex Park, formerly chief executive and now an executive vice-chairman, remains on the board and becomes chairman of the investment panel whose role will be to review and recommend overall capital expenditure plans. The policy of creating more manageable units is based on the reorganization "as quickly as possible" of four subsidiary companies: Leyland Cars, Leyland Trucks and Buses, Leyland Products and Leyland International will become limited companies, each with its own board of directors and non-executive chairman. Business News, page 19



Private Richard Hastie, aged 17 (right), helping to fight a fire at King's College Hospital, London, early yesterday when several soldiers were overcome by smoke.

Fire puts £70m power station out of action for 'nine or ten months'

By Martin Huckerby
The Central Electricity Generating Board said last night that its £70m Tilbury B power station would be out of action for nine or ten months as a result of a fire that had burned out of control all day. The damage would run to "some millions". The board said it will be at least 12 hours before the damage could be checked, but it was already certain that two of the four generating sets had been seriously damaged. The Tilbury fire was only one indication yesterday of the increasing difficulties facing the Services in their efforts to pick up the pieces of the Army. In Glasgow, for example, they were under serious strain as they fought for 11 hours to cope with a burning warehouse in the Gorbals area, and elsewhere there were signs of stiffening attitudes among both the strikers and their employers. Many pickets began to check the involvement in fire-fighting of strikers and senior officers. In London, telephones at fire stations were cut off to prevent their "unauthorized use" by strikers. Talks between the firemen's leaders and the local authority employers, aimed at finding a formula for regulating firemen's pay, broke up last night after four hours and will be resumed tomorrow. As night fell, the fire at Tilbury was left to burn out on its own, helped by the time from the fire-fighters' own fire crew, concentrated on reducing structural damage to the plant. Officials said the soldiers had not had enough foam equipment or breathing apparatus. The fire would never have got such a hold if the right equipment had been available quickly, they said. One senior fire officer said: "We have boys doing a man's job." At several other incidents Servicemen received first-aid treatment for minor injuries and the effects of smoke. Four were injured while putting out a fire in an office and warehouse block in Clarendon Road, central London. As the troops continued to operate their emergency fire-fighting service large numbers of pickets were diverting their attention to people they regarded as strike-breakers. At King's College Hospital Medical School, London, for example, pickets took names and photographs of strikers who helped to put out a fire. In the Gorbals photographs of senior officers on duty were taken. Pickets appeared outside the London emergency control centre under Kingsway in an attempt to stop senior fire officers who were working with the Army to coordinate operations. At Battersea, south-west London, strikers operated a "pirate" radio station, using fire station equipment and broadcasting on a fire-service frequency, to keep striking groups around London informed and to organize mobile pickets to stop strike-breakers. Nevertheless strikers did help in several incidents. They evacuated people in the Gorbals and helped to put out a house fire at Clarendon-on-Sea, Norfolk. Hoax calls continued in many areas. At Aldford Magistrates' Court, west London, the owner of an off-licence was fined £200 for making a hoax call on Monday. A Commons motion tabled yesterday by Mr John Farr, Conservative MP for Harborough, demanded extra penalties, including imprisonment, for people who make hoax calls during the strike.

Lord Scarman sees danger in race law

By Marcel Berlins
Laws loaded in favour of disadvantaged minority groups, like the Race Relations Act, should remain on the statute book only for a limited period, Lord Scarman said yesterday. In the longer term individual rights must predominate. Delivering the annual Minority Rights Group Lecture on "Rights and obligations in a plural society", he pointed out that the Act, which prohibited discrimination against disadvantaged groups, also allowed some discrimination in their favour. "This is very dangerous ground. The risk is in seeking to do justice to those who are disadvantaged we impose injustice on others," he said. Unless the law was loaded in their favour minority groups would never achieve true equality of opportunity, but any permanent loading "may put the unity of society at risk of collapse." He accepted that an unbalanced law, favouring some groups, was necessary as Britain started building a civilized plural society. "But in a truly mature society we must recognize such laws as ultimately unjust." To ensure that a temporary imbalance did not become permanent "the law should declare the general principle of equal justice for all under the law, while recognizing a temporary and limited exception in favour of members of disadvantaged groups." To do that it was necessary to have a Bill of Rights. "It is not a substitution for detailed anti-discrimination laws, but a reminder that such laws must not be taken so far as to imperil fundamental freedoms, and are, at their best, only a means to an end." The law must continue to emphasize the ultimate value of the individual. In a homogeneous society it may well be unnecessary to declare by statute the basic rights and duties of men. But, as soon as the complexities of a plural society arise, a Bill of Rights, as the Americans have found, can provide a body of principle on which the legislature, as well as the courts can build. Lord Scarman had earlier suggested that immigration into Britain in the 1960s had presented the "naturally tolerant British" with the difficulties of the plural society, which their experience had not fitted their mind.

Israel looks forward to Sadat visit

From Moshe Brilliant
Tel Aviv, Nov 16
In spite of an unexplained hitch in getting a formal invitation to President Sadat, Israel is preparing for a visit by the Egyptian leader next week or the week after. American sources were coy about why the message transmitted last night through the American embassies in Tel Aviv and Cairo could not reach President Sadat before he left for Damascus. A message from President Sadat reached Israel today but it was addressed to the sponsors of an international symposium on peace in the Middle East. The telegram, routed through Cyprus, called on the symposium to focus on "the living reality of the Palestinian people and their inalienable right to statehood." Mr Dayan, the Foreign Minister, said today it was unlikely that negotiations would be conducted during the proposed visit. President Sadat had said "would not discuss a separate peace between Egypt and Israel" and was not authorized to negotiate on behalf of the other Arab countries. Our Diplomatic Correspondent writes: Mr Begin will arrive in London on Sunday and go directly to Chequers for talks with Mr Callaghan. The visit is expected to go ahead as planned, according to official sources, because it will not conflict with President Sadat's proposed visit to Jerusalem. Sadat reassurance, page 5

Former Waffen-SS officers ordered out

By Stewart Tandler
Two former Waffen-SS officers were ordered out of Britain last night by Mr Rees, Home Secretary. They were home to promote a new history of the unit written by former members, and their visit had provoked strong protests. Lieutenant-Colonel Hubert Meyer, once a member of Hitler's personal bodyguard and a staff officer in a Panzer division, and Colonel Walter Haver, commander of the 9th SS "Hohenstaufen" division, arrived in Britain yesterday morning. A third, unnamed officer, formerly Hitler's personal adjutant, was due to join them. The Home Office stated last night that the visit of the three men was "against public policy." They were to have taken part in a press conference in London today to promote *Waffen-SS: A History in 1,115 Pictures*. They were then to have driven to a secret destination to lay a wreath on a memorial to British soldiers killed during the Second World War. The book has been published in West Germany by a publishing house called Munin and distributed in the United Kingdom by Munin (UK) Ltd, run from a Brighton address by Mr Patrick Hinchy. A woman there said yesterday that it also sold other books, including reproductions of posters from the Third Reich, and records of German machine songs. Lieutenant-Colonel Meyer and Mr Hinchy appeared on BBC television's *Nationwide* programme last night to argue the book's virtues with Mr Winston Churchill, MP for Stretford.

Russia sells EEC butter back to Italy

The European Parliament was told yesterday that EEC butter sold cheap to the Soviet Union in 1973 and 1974 was being resold at premium prices in Italy. An investigation by the European Commission is "hampered by a lack of cooperation on the part of the Italian authorities." Page 4

Croissant handover

France handed over to the Bonn authorities Herr Klaus Croissant, the lawyer, who defended Rastler-Meinhold found partially in favour of the West German request for his extradition. Page 4

Wilson book writ

Sir Harold and Lady Wilson have issued a writ seeking an injunction to stop publication of a book, *Sir Harold Wilson*, by Yorkshire writer, written by Andrew Roth and published by Macdonald and James. They are also claiming libel damages. Page 2

Steel chief upsets Select Committee

There were bitter exchanges in the Select Committee on Nationalised Industries when Sir Charles Villiers, chairman of the British Steel Corporation, refused to give MPs details of the measures being discussed with the unions to avoid losses, estimated at £500m a year. Page 19

Minister under fire

The Opposition Labour Party in Australia called on Mr Phillip Lynch, the Federal Treasurer, publicly to disclose his business dealings because of allegations about his involvement in a land sale. Mr Lynch has denied the accusation. Page 6

Church backs unions

Support for the principle of the union closed shop was expressed by a working party of the Church of England, subject to safeguards. Page 2

Victory not enough for England

England beat Italy 2-0 at Wembley last night in their group two World Cup qualifying match. Italy have only to beat Luxembourg in Rome next month to reach the finals. In other ties, Northern Ireland defeated Belgium, 3-0, but Wales lost 1-0 in Czechoslovakia. Page 10

Pay ceiling doubts

Signs are clear that the increase in the total wages bill will be significant, above the Chancellor's 10 per cent target. Agreements covering four out of five workers, who should have settled since August 1, have still to be notified. Page 19

Turks: Assistant editor of La Stampa shot in the face by Red Brigate terrorists

Yemen Arab Republic: A 10-page Special Report on the changing face of this little-known Arab state. Page 10

Leader page 15

Letters: On the harem's strike, from Mr W. A. Wiseman, and others; on EEC fisheries policy, from Mrs Elizabeth Young. Leading articles: Leyland restructured again; Extradition of terrorists; Reverse discrimination. Features: pages 9 and 14. Dr Immanuel Jakobovits says the scars of healing for Romania's Jews; Ian Bradley on the Conservatives' new radical image; Fashion by Penelope Glynn. Arts, page 8. John Higgins talks to Bernard Haitink about his first Wagner on stage; Alan Coren on *Play for Today* (BBC 1); William Mann on the new production of *The Marriage of Figaro* in Cardiff. Books, page 12. Michael Ratcliffe reviews *A History of Rhodesia* by Robert Blake; Louis Heron on India; a *Wounded Civilization*, by V. S. Naipaul; Susan Hill reviews the latest novel by P. G. Wodehouse. Sport, pages 10 and 11. Boxing: Jim Watt's successful first defence of European title; Tennis: John Lloyd defeats Cox at Wimbledon; Racing: Michael Sedg at Kempton Park. Business News, pages 18-24. Stock markets: Though depressed by Unilever's figures, shares rallied and the FT index closed 3.6 up at 484.3. Financial Editor: Talk of re-imposing the "corset". Unilever, European demand remains weak; Woolworth still out of step. Business features: Clifford Webb on devolution—British Leyland style; Caroline Atkinson argues that downward inflation trends may soon be reversed.

Get the real flavour of France this Winter

There's no better way to savour the flavour of the real France than a Winter Air France Holiday. Visit Cannes, Nice or Monte Carlo and avoid the Summer crowds. If mainland France doesn't appeal, try island France: Corsica and the French Caribbean. Corsica has a mild winter climate, while Martinique and Guadeloupe blend French and African tradition. The temperature rarely drops below 75°. If you enjoy outdoor activities like horse-riding, cycling, walking, sailing and fishing, Aquitaine offers you the perfect family winter holiday. If cities mean more to you than the sea, and winter warmth isn't quite so important, how about a few days in Paris? For further details of Winter Air France Holidays, ask your local Travel Agent for our brochure. Or post the coupon.

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HOME NEWS

Cumbria wants to transfer its 'base' to Manchester

From John Charters

Cumbria, geographically one of the largest counties in England, wants to leave the Government's Northern Region, which has its head office in Newcastle upon Tyne, and 'rejoin' the North-West Region, based on Manchester.

Cumbria was created in 1974 out of the old Cumberland, Westmorland and parts of Lancashire. Many of its 470,000 population have felt themselves in an 'unenviable position' since local government reorganization because some of the government departments that serve the area are based in Newcastle, others in Manchester.

Their electricity is administered from Manchester; some gas comes from Ayrshire, some from Newcastle; water is administered from Warrington and other government departments have widely differing boundaries within the county.

Yesterday the Conservative-controlled county council decided by big majorities to try once more to have the county regarded as an independent region for planning and administration.

An attempt to obtain independent regional status failed two years ago. If the new move fails, the county council intend to call the Government to task.

The move may have considerable significance for the Government, as it would force discussions and parliamentary debates on devolution and on any future moves to create elected regional governments in England. Much of the opposition to the last Scottish devolution Bill came from Northern MPs who fear government resources may be channelled to Scotland. Any similar realignment of county allegiances would affect Mr. Wilson.

Cumbria's resolutions yesterday included a reaffirmation of opposition to elected regional government in the predictable future. The county council also voted not to renew its £27,380 annual subscription to the North of England Development Council from next March.

The council, jointly financed by a £250,000-a-year government contribution and subscriptions from Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear, Durham and Cleveland, is based in Newcastle, with Lord Glenamara, formerly Mr. Edward Short, as chairman.

Lord Glenamara recently appealed to Cumbria to think again about leaving. Cumbria cannot put the money saved towards financial and industrial promotional departments which it is establishing. It will still belong to the North-West Industrial Development Association, at £5,100 a year.

The county council also decided against joining a new pressure group called the Northern Counties Association, which is being formed to promote new industry and counter the disadvantages of devolution which has support from Northumberland, Tyne and Wear and Durham.

Yesterday's decision followed the submission to a committee of a paper by Mr. Peter Naylor, chairman of the county council, in which he said the county should go North-west because people in the North-east tended to regard his county as an appendage rather than an integral part of their region.

Labour members opposed the move. Councillor Hugh Lytle, who said the county should go North-east, said it amounted to Cumbria's 'turning its back' on the Northern Region.

The decisions may seriously affect the future of the North of England Development Council. The association has been voiced by Cleveland and Durham, which pay £47,000 and £33,000 a year respectively into the total expenditure budget of about £450,000.

In government circles no serious difficulties are foreseen in transferring Cumbria to the North-western Region. But the county's chances of being made an independent region are remote.

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The mixture: one level spoonful of cockroach

By John Roper

When a London mother poured the third dose from a bottle of medicine for her sick son, a cockroach dropped into the spoon and she saw other cockroaches in the bottle.

Although he had not dispensed it, she took the bottle to her local chemist, who advised her to take her complaint to Camden Environmental Health Department.

The bottle was passed to a food inspector, but he told her that as she had obtained the medicine on prescription and no money had been paid he was unable to deal with the complaint.

The matter was passed to the pharmaceutical service committee of the Camden and Islington Family Practitioner Committee.

Then came the report, published yesterday, which explained how the cockroaches got into the bottle of mixture.

Which, the report says, 'has a somewhat repellent smell'. If the mother had left bottles unsupervised the cockroaches would probably have made for a bottle of sweet syrupy coughex ordered on the same prescription, the committee comments.

The chemists dispensing the medicines were found to have failed to comply with a relevant paragraph of the service. But as there had been no previous failure the committee decided not to withhold payment but to issue a caution.

A director of the chemists told the committee that all medicine bottles were new, were stored with their caps firmly screwed on and were washed and rinsed before use.

The company was proud of its high standard of hygiene and had never had an infestation of insects on its premises.

He agreed that some bottles were placed on the floor, but not inside how so many insects entered a bottle.

The bottle, the report notes, was dark brown, perhaps concealing cockroaches within. The committee ordered medicine into a spoon and found a cockroach. Insects floored to the back of the bottle.

Six candidates line up at Bournemouth, East

Safe Tory seat for life, barring accidents

From Michael Hatfield

Political Reporter

Bournemouth. When Mr. John Cordle was obliged to resign his seat at Bournemouth, East, over the Poulson affair, he left his successor a safe Tory seat for life, majority over 10,000, so long as he does not overstep undefined boundaries.

Mr. David Atkinson, aged 37, whose parliamentary ambitions have been realised earlier than he dared hope (he fought unsuccessfully the two general elections in 1974) is not likely to do that.

During the present campaign it would be a surprise if he eventually went the way of a previous Tory member, Mr. Nigel Nicholson, who was discovered by the local association for daring to challenge the party leader.

Sir Anthony Eden, the late Lord Avon, over 80, was a Conservative through Conservative policies. Mr. Atkinson agrees with the left-wing Tory Reform Group on some issues, and on others supports the right-wing elements. He is a member of neither faction. 'I support well-established Conservative principles', he said yesterday.

He is hot on law and order, a real issue in Bournemouth, where an elderly population, of whom more than a quarter are over 65, are said to be demonstrating growing anxiety. There has been a 30 per cent increase in robberies, and last week punk rockers inflicted damage estimated at £700 on seats at a concert in the town.

Mr. Cordle has not been visible during the campaign, although he has offered assistance. After a telephone conversation with him, Mr. Atkinson explained: 'We shall meet after the by-election so that there can be a smooth transfer.'

Left-wing Labour MPs who would not imagine how so many insects entered a bottle.

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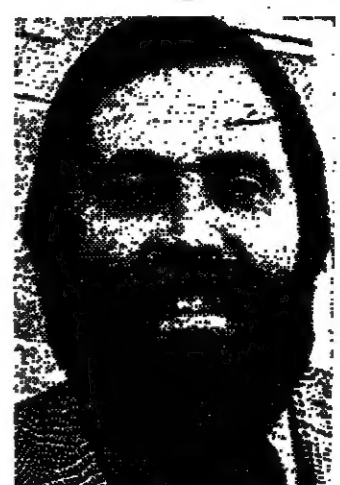
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Mr. Matthew (L.): Middle of the road.



Mr. Goodwin (Lab): Local connections.



Mr. Atkinson (C): Hot on law and order.

Mr. Matthew said the party with Labour had done little to dent Liberal support. The party suffered in the local elections in May, shortly after the past was agreed but many were now enthusiastic.

Mr. Matthew is a senior lecturer in labour economics at the Dorset Institute of Further Education, whereas the Labour candidate, Mr. Joseph Goodwin, aged 29, is a lecturer in liberal studies at Bournemouth College of Technology.

Three other candidates have entered the lists, including Mr. Kenneth McKilliam, of the National Front. On Monday night Mr. John Tyndall addressed a Front meeting attended by about a hundred people in Bournemouth. At the general election the Front polled 828 votes.

The two other candidates have hardly shown themselves. Mr. William Banks is fighting as a Democratic Monarchist, Public Safety, White Resident candidate, and Mr. John Phillip Pratt is standing for the New Britain Party.

General election: Mr. J. H. Cordle (C) 20,790 (51.7 per cent); Mr. G. H. Musgrave (L) 10,129 (25.2 per cent); Mr. D. E. Lock (Lab) 8,422 (21 per cent); Mr. M. Hayes (Nax Front) 828 (2.1 per cent). Electorate, 57,010 (turn-out, 70.4 per cent).

A local man who was on Bournemouth council for three years until 1976, Mr. Goodwin is interested in consumer affairs. According to his elec-

tion pamphlet he is a national executive member of 'a major organization campaigning for consumers' rights', which turns out to be the Campaign for Real Ale.

All three candidates differ little over the Government's pay restraint measures, although Mr. Atkinson would have liked to see the police made a special case. Questioning on the firemen's dispute produce elliptical phrases which, when examined, mean that the Government must stand firm.

Mr. Atkinson said that in some areas rural residents were subjected to more noise than people living near Heathrow. Fighter aircraft are not supposed to fly lower than 250ft, but in valleys that ceiling is difficult to determine. Mr. Dafydd Thomas, Plaid Cymru MP for Merioneth, has been told of aircraft flying at night only 100ft above the nuclear power station at Trwysfynydd.

Mr. Thomas also objects to the use of Welsh air space by American and other foreign aircraft capable of carrying nuclear weapons. But he concedes that the RAF bases in Wales provide jobs for many people and he would oppose their closure until alternative work could be provided.

Environmentalists say the low-flying boom of a Buccaneer through the mountains of Snowdonia conflict with the designation of the area as a peaceful national park.

Farmers are the flights' most consistent critics, and the National Farmers' Union and the Farmers' Union of Wales have great success in claiming damages for aborted livestock and disturbed poultry.

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RAF checks low-flying training jets over Wales

From Tim Jones

Cardiff

The RAF police are monitoring remote areas of rural Wales to ensure that fighter aircraft crews observe regulations governing low-level training exercises.

The checks have been initiated after complaints that RAF and Nato aircraft fly too low over small towns and villages as they simulate battle conditions.

After the recent crash of a United States Air Force F-111 fighter near Foel, Powys, Mr. Emyr Hooson, QC, Liberal MP for Montgomeryshire, said people in Mid Wales had had enough. He complained to Mr. Welby, Welsh Secretary of State.

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the RAF, that the flight control regulations appeared to be honoured more in the breach than in the observance.

Mr. Hooson said that in some areas rural residents were subjected to more noise than people living near Heathrow. Fighter aircraft are not supposed to fly lower than 250ft, but in valleys that ceiling is difficult to determine. Mr. Dafydd Thomas, Plaid Cymru MP for Merioneth, has been told of aircraft flying at night only 100ft above the nuclear power station at Trwysfynydd.

Mr. Thomas also objects to the use of Welsh air space by American and other foreign aircraft capable of carrying nuclear weapons. But he concedes that the RAF bases in Wales provide jobs for many people and he would oppose their closure until alternative work could be provided.

Environmentalists say the low-flying boom of a Buccaneer through the mountains of Snowdonia conflict with the designation of the area as a peaceful national park.

Farmers are the flights' most consistent critics, and the National Farmers' Union and the Farmers' Union of Wales have great success in claiming damages for aborted livestock and disturbed poultry.

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Woman got into deep freezer to die

Mrs. Joyce Oxenham, became so depressed that she got into her deep freezer to die so that her body would not be found after taking 100 aspirins, it was stated, an inquest at Camborne, Cornwall, yesterday.

Mrs. Oxenham, aged 60, left a note to her husband saying she had gone to visit a friend. It was not until six or eight hours after she died that the police opened the 6ft by 3ft freezer and found her inside.

The contents of the freezer had been removed and stocked near by.

Calling it a slightly bizarre case, Mr. Geoffrey Robins, the coroner, recorded a verdict that Mrs. Oxenham took her own life while her balance of mind was disturbed.

He said it was evident that she had climbed into the freezer in the garden shed to avoid the possibility of being found before the tablets killed her.

The husband, Mr. Gerald Oxenham, aged 65, a coach painter, of Rosewarne Caravan Park, Camborne, said his wife had been seriously depressed for two or three years.

Appeal to MPs to stop fish shop closures

By Hugh Clayton

Fish merchants and trawlermen supported an appeal to MPs yesterday to save fish-and-chip and fishmongers' shops, two of the fastest declining sections of the high street.

The Confederation of Fried Fish Caterers' Associations, which organized a combined industry lobby at the House of Commons, said the number of fish-and-chip shops had fallen from 15,000 to 11,000 in 12 years.

Fish traders feel especially vulnerable because they are in a period of haphazard supplies between the ending of fishing regimes used before membership of the EEC and the creation of a coherent policy by the Community.

Mr. Peter Worthington, secretary of the National Federation of Fish Friers, said that when frozen food companies had overcome technical obstacles to the use of blue whiting in such foods as fish fingers more traditional species would be released for friers.

The picture of the future is painted by Anthony Burgess, the novelist, in today's New Society. He and four other writers have taken part in a joint exercise in prophecy.

Burgess's gloom is unfuture. 'Tudland' is dominated by unions dedicated to a collectivist philosophy and opposed to work or enjoyment.

The pattern is already here.

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Fee increases 'threaten sandwich courses'

By Our Education Correspondent

The fact that students on sandwich courses must now pay full tuition fees to cover periods spent away from university in industrial training may endanger the future of such courses.

Dr. Clifford Butler, Vice-Chancellor of Loughborough University of Technology, says:

In a letter to Mrs. Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, Dr. Butler says that there should be a return to the last year's status quo, when students were not charged for periods of industrial training and universities received proportionately larger funds from the University Grants Committee.

Loughborough University decided to impose the new fee, as recommended by the grants committee, only with 'extreme reluctance', as it could not afford to forgo income at a time

of economic restraint, Dr. Butler says. But it is deeply concerned about the effects of the new charge, particularly on self-financing students.

There are 622 students on sandwich courses at Loughborough, 59 of whom are not eligible for mandatory grants and who therefore have to pay the increase in fees of £500 a year for home students, and £650 for overseas students out of their own pockets.

Loughborough has decided to offer 'assistance on a generous scale' to self-financing students already at the university who might face severe hardship. But that would not help future students.

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Stolen cash was found in police car after raid

The proceeds of a £12,000 building society robbery were found under the front seat of a police car. Judge Grant was told at the Central Criminal Court yesterday

HOME NEWS

Soho cinemas win right to show X films after judge condemns 'denial of natural justice'

A judge yesterday gave two cinemas in Soho, London, permission to continue showing X certificate films. He said that, while the court sympathized with the idea that the area had been degraded by an invasion of the sex industry, there had been a denial of natural justice in the way the cinemas had been granted or refused licences.

Judge Campbell, QC, chairman of the Inner London Appeals Committee, was giving a reserved judgment on the appeal of the owners of the Soho and Pigalle cinemas against the refusal of the Greater London Council to renew their licences. He said the two cinemas could continue in business at least until September 30, 1978.

The judge criticized the council, which has been con-

ducting a "clean up Soho" campaign, for the way licence applications were dealt with, at the most, by two members of the council's public services and safety committee. "I described the council's powers earlier as draconian, and I see no reason to resist from that description," the judge said.

"We were told that the chairman or vice-chairman exercised the power on behalf of the committee. If that is so, it is a delegation of power that is not authorized by statute or by common law and it follows that any decisions made by the chairman or vice-chairman to grant or refuse are made unlawfully and ultra vires and accordingly have no validity."

It was impossible to say that the refusal to grant licences to the two cinemas were decisions of the committee. In the

case of new cinemas requiring new licences, proper consideration by the full committee was well merited. "We hold that is what the law requires."

Continuing, the judge said: "The Conservative Party has expressed the view that there are in Soho too many cinemas showing X certificate films and it would be desirable to reduce that number."

The council accepted that declared policy and fully understood and had sympathy with the idea that the area had been degraded by an invasion of the sex industry. But the court was not concerned with sex shops; only with cinemas showing X certificate films.

It had been admitted by the GLC that the two cinemas concerned had a comparatively good record and their front-of-house displays were less objectionable than those outside other cinemas.

The two cinemas between them employed about seventy people. Given the council's declared policy, it seemed unlikely that any purchaser would have confidence in getting a licence and the property would be virtually unsaleable.

Capital investments would be lost and 70 people would lose their employment," the judge said. The appellants had been given no opportunity by the council to refute or explain and, most important, no opportunity to be heard.

"There was, in short, a denial of what we are proud to call natural justice." The decisions were therefore wholly void and could not be justified by a change of policy.

The judge ordered the GLC to pay the appellants' costs.

Dons lobby MPs to put case for more pay

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

Lord Boyle of Handsworth, Vice-Chancellor of Leeds University, chairman of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals and a former Minister of Education, was among nearly seven thousand university professors and lecturers who abandoned classes yesterday to lobby MPs in support of a demand for "rectification" of pay.

That would entail salary increases of between 25 and 30 per cent but in setting the level for its recurrent grant the Government has allowed for increases of only 5 per cent. A delegation met Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, last night.

The pay anomaly of which the academics complain dates from 1975 when an independent tribunal recommended increases averaging about 20 per cent, plus an allowance for the rise in the cost of living, backdated to October 1974, to give the university teachers' public sector colleges of further education.

Although accepting the claim, the Government would not allow them to be paid until October 1975. The first phase of the pay policy then intervened with the result that the university teachers received increases of only about 4 per cent.

The Association of University Teachers, which represents 29,000 out of a possible 33,000 teachers, says that an increase of about 16 per cent is required to regain parity with the further education teachers, plus another 10 per cent to 15 per cent to



University teachers at Westminster making a suitably academic point yesterday about their grievance.

Plan to halt dole for students rejected

Government proposals to prevent students claiming unemployment benefit during short vacations have been rejected by the National Insurance Advisory Committee. About 90,000 students are expected to qualify for the benefit at Christmas, including about 60,000 mature students who have given up jobs to undergo further education.

A majority of the members of the committee, including the chairman, said in a report published yesterday that unemployment benefit should be available to students who had paid contributions and were available for work. They reaffirmed the principle that people who have contributed to the national insurance scheme are entitled to benefit from it.

Mr Orme, Minister for Social Security, announced in a written reply last night that the Government will not go ahead with the proposed new regulations immediately. "We shall continue our consideration of the circumstances under which students can qualify for unemployment benefit with a view to putting forward amended proposals in due course."

Clearly the Government still intends to limit the unemployment benefit students can receive, particularly since school-leavers can qualify for benefits by paying contributions for a few months while working before going to university.

The National Union of Students said last night that it would take steps to ensure that the view of the committee that benefit should be paid as a minimum scale of principle was accepted in the long term.

Witness says any talk of 'Sigit' is damaging

Colonel B, an expert witness, said at the secret case hearing at Tottenham Magistrates' Court, London, yesterday that he thought it was against the national interest to have discussed Sigit (signals intelligence) the way it had been during the hearing.

A reference to Sigit in the motion came after a lobby of Parliament by more than two hundred leading scientists, members of scientists and environmental groups, and others who have objected to the large-scale expansion of atomic energy.

They gathered under the label Energy 2000 at a meeting at the Commons, at which Mr Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, gave an account of government policy.

Mr Benn welcomed the debate over nuclear issues but indicated reservations about proposed solutions. Those doubts clearly applied to the terms of the Commons motion reflecting anxiety "that over 90 per cent of United Kingdom expenditure on energy research and development is still allocated to nuclear power."

The motion notes that distinguished scientists have expressed anxiety about dangers that may be associated with a plutonium economy, and demands large investment in the development of alternative energy sources and conservation technology.

While accepting the importance of alternative sources of energy from solar power, the wind, waves and tides, Mr Benn saw them as long-term schemes in need of economic and environmental assessments, and certainly not as contributors of energy on a significant scale within 10 to 15 years.

A different emphasis emerged from the programme for guiding nuclear policy presented to the meeting by the Town and Country Planning Association. It requested further expansion of nuclear power until several uncertainties had been removed and health and safety hazards fully appraised and safely eliminated.

The programme is based on the argument that no solution to the difficulties of long-term disposal of high-level radioactive waste is in sight. In addition, with serious scientific disagreement over whether low level doses of radiation are more harmful to workers and the public than present safety standards assume, or even whether there is any urgent need for the additional electricity that an expansion of nuclear power would provide, the objectors argue that the

Demand by MPs to avoid 'unacceptable degree of dependence' on nuclear power

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

An all-party group of MPs yesterday opened an early-day motion calling for measures to prevent Britain from becoming "unacceptably" dependent on nuclear power.

The first 14 signatures to the motion came after a lobby of Parliament by more than two hundred leading scientists, members of scientists and environmental groups, and others who have objected to the large-scale expansion of atomic energy.

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development of new nuclear systems would be foolish.

The opponents of nuclear power have also shown awareness that the nuclear energy industry has lost one of its most important arguments: that no one has died directly because of the commercial use of that power.

That changed when awards were made in the High Court in Carlisle on Tuesday to the widows of two plutonium workers who were said to have died as a result of working at the Windscale plant of British Nuclear Fuels.

The awards, reached by agreement, included one of £22,441 for Mrs Gladys Troughton in behalf of her husband, who died in 1975 from a type of cancer that can be linked with having been exposed to radiation. While accepting liability for Mrs Troughton's illness, the company agreed to pay £8,000 to Mrs Joan King, on behalf of her husband, who died of a brain tumour in 1973, but denied liability in that case.

As part of the settlement, which has been fought through the union negotiators for more than three years, British Nuclear Fuels is establishing a scheme for automatic compensation for the benefit of workers in the industry who suffer injury or death because of overexposure to radiation.

Tighter curb on advertisements

Dealers and people selling goods in the course of business are to be banned from advertising in newspapers without disclosing the fact. The House of Commons yesterday approved an order under the Fair Trading Act intended to oblige traders from January 1 next year to make clear in their advertisements that they are not private individuals.

The order goes to the Lords for approval today.

Mr David Lane, chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality, said it would encourage employers to keep records of the ethnic origins of employees.

Immigrants 'need tuition in English for jobs'

By Peter Evans

Up to 200,000 immigrants in Britain are thought to need training in the English language to help them at work or to get jobs, according to an estimate in a forthcoming report by the National Centre for Industrial Language Training.

The figure was given yesterday by Mr Thomas Jupp, its director, at a conference organized by the British Association for Commercial and Industrial Education in conjunction with the Commission for Racial Equality.

The report says traditionally most instruction and information about ways of doing jobs are given informally by one worker to another, but the breaking down of that system is one of the ways in which workplaces have been radically changed by multiracial work forces.

Supervisory systems that depend on common background and values are under great strain, it says. Traditional assumptions about workplace customs and practices are no longer shared, which creates difficulties in industrial relations.

Transport users' body to get stronger role

By Our Transport Correspondent

The Central Transport Consultative Committee, the main consumer body in the field is to be strengthened to monitor the fares and quality of bus and rail services under new powers to be announced by the Government. At present its role is limited to rail, and even there it is not allowed to question fare levels.

Mr Frank Higgins, the committee's new chairman, said at a press conference in London yesterday that the new powers would enable it to look at transport as a whole throughout Britain and to move into contentious areas such as road-rail integration and the replacement of rural railways with buses.

In the last-named case, it would want to be satisfied that any bus service replacing a rail service would be of a higher standard and a longer-term commitment than previously. It would also want to be sure that the Government was fully aware of people's views about the possible loss of local trains, and that all costs and benefits were being taken into account.

Thirteen arrested in £250,000 robbery inquiry

Thirteen people were arrested in Geneva, London and Newcastle yesterday in a combined operation by officers from Scotland Yard's Flying Squad and two regional crime squads investigating a series of robberies, involving at least £250,000, and two killings dating back to 1961.

After yesterday's raids a man and a woman were charged with offences involving defrauding an insurance company and another 10 men were being questioned on the nature of communism itself.

Mr Monty Johnstone, of the British Communist Party, was taken to speak in a personal capacity on the problems of Stakism and the twentieth party congress in 1956. "The difficult death of Stalin" was the prescribed text for the day. But Mr Johnstone made changes in his prepared report in order to answer the opening speech delivered last night by Professor Leszek Kolakowski, the Polish philosopher now at Oxford University.

Professor Kolakowski had argued that communism, even before the Russian revolution,

WEST EUROPE

French hand over Herr Croissant to West Germany after Paris court approves extradition

From Ian Murray
Paris, Nov 16

The French Government moved swiftly this evening to agree to the extradition of Herr Kibus Croissant, the Basque-Maintenon defence lawyer.

Just five and a half hours after the Paris Court of Appeal found there were "partial" grounds in one of the two West German warrants against him, he was sent to La Santé prison in Paris towards the border.

A West German aircraft was sent to an airstrip at Coulommiers to collect him.

His defence lawyers mounted a vigorous last-ditch effort to prevent the move. They petitioned the Supreme Court of Appeal and made moves to start proceedings within the Council d'Etat, which can overrule Government decisions. But the justices of the court made it impossible for them to do anything. The decision was sent through to the prison just after 8 pm, and he was on his way to Germany later.

The Court of Appeal decided that there was a case for Herr Croissant to answer under the warrant issued on July 15 at Stuttgart. Part of this alleged

that he had made use of his position as a lawyer to help to set up and run a communications system to keep prisoners in touch with other members of the gang both inside and outside the prison.

Under West German law this offence would carry the maximum penalty of five years' jail. This was the only part of the warrant agreed by the court, which then referred it to the French Government for a final decision.

The court turned down the second warrant, issued on September 30, at Karlsruhe, which claimed that Herr Croissant was conspiring with a gang of criminals who were plotting and carrying out crimes including robbery and murder. According to the French court, the evidence for this was circumstantial.

Herr Croissant will, therefore, have to stand trial in West Germany for only the one offence. Under the extradition treaty between the two countries any further offences for which he is heard against him if first agreed by the French courts.

The quick implementation of the court's decision is certain to

cause a storm of legal and left-wing protest since the case has been regarded in both circles as a test case of the rights of a lawyer to defend his client.

While judgment was being given in the well-guarded courtroom, a group of about 100 French lawyers, many robed, protested in the corridors of the Palais de Justice and began shouting and whistling after they learned the court had decided it would be possible to extradite Herr Croissant.

Herr Croissant left the court to applause from some lawyers and members of the public crammed into the back of the courtroom.

Bonn request: West Germany today requested Holland to extradite Christoph Wackernagel and Gerd Schneider, sought in connection with terrorist attacks in West Germany, a Dutch Justice Ministry spokesman said. Both men were wounded in a shoot-out with police in Amsterdam last Friday and are being held in The Hague's hospital. — Agency France Presse.

EEC butter resold by Russia at a premium

From David Wood
Strasbourg, Nov 16

The Italian Government refuses to cooperate with the European Commission in an investigation of how Community butter sold cheap to Russia in 1973 and 1974 is now being resold at premium prices in Italy.

Mr Finn Olav Gundlach, the Commissioner for Agriculture, told the European Parliament here today that butter sold cheap to the Soviet Union had been reexported to Italy without paying a levy under the common agricultural policy arrangements. "We have been hampered by lack of cooperation on the part of the Italian authorities," he said.

"We may have to take sharp action to get to the bottom of the affair to strengthen our defences against frauds in agricultural products."

The question has been raised by Lord Bruce of Donington, a British member of the Socialist group. He said that illegal transactions were a direct result of the EEC system of buying at intervention prices and selling at a premium.

Mr Gundlach said that he would lay the results of the Commission's inquiry before the European Parliament's budgetary control committee.

But an anti-inflationary system where we are producing agricultural products not for a market but for permanent price intervention."

Lord George-Brown, the former Foreign Secretary, tonight completed his first visit to the European Parliament, which must be reckoned his opening broadside in a campaign to stand as a candidate for the European Movement in direct elections.

He admitted some disappointment with the Parliament when he compared it with Westminster. He added that it needed politicians of the first team rather than of the second.

He was also distressed to find in his meetings with parliamentary leaders and Commissioners that Westminster's reputation had been damaged by the Labour Government's failure to keep the direct action deadline of May-June 1978.

As a former Foreign Secretary, he remarked that, according to practice, there was nothing to stop a government from signing a convention or treaty in advance of parliamentary approval. The Concordat treaty was an example in which he had been involved in 1964.

Parliamentary approval was a government's excuse for not consulting the governments and parliaments of the other eight member countries knew that.

Parliamentary report, page 7

Herr Schmidt dominates his party's congress as undisputed leader

From Patricia Clough
Hamburg, Nov 16

Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, riding high on a wave of national popularity, emerged further strengthened today by the warm and enthusiastic support of the Social Democratic Party congress. He dominated the packed and attentive gathering as he reviewed government policy and national problems.

He spoke with the confidence gained from the personal and political success of his cool handling of the recent terrorist dramas: the kidnapping of Dr Hans-Martin Schleyer, the industrial leader, and the Lufthansa hijacking.

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When telephoning see page 10 only outside London Metropolitan Area.

OPERA AND BALLET

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 Tomorrow 7.30 p.m. *Die Fledermaus*
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ART GALLERIES

WYNDHAM'S 01-330 5228
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THE ARTS

Haitink on Lohengrin

Tonight Bernard Haitink conducts Wagner for the first time in the opera house. The work is *Lohengrin* at Covent Garden, a low-budget production by Elisha Modinsky, who is hoping to repeat his success with *Peter Grimes*, and a high-budget cast led by René Kollo and Anna Tomowa-Sintow, who were in Karajan's staging of the same opera in Salzburg the Easter before last.

A fortnight ago London's version was in jeopardy. The conductor, who had been in the United States, had to leave for a time to direct three hours on performances. It was just possible to trim *Don Carlos* to fit that span but *Lohengrin* would not have responded to similar treatment. As it is, Bernard Haitink has lost some of his rehearsal periods. He is not, though, in complaining mood. He rarely is.

"Naturally I regret that there have been labour troubles at Covent Garden, but I am a foreigner and it would be quite wrong for me to be involved in any way. My job now is to make up lost time, particularly with the chorus. *Lohengrin* is the choral opera par excellence and I have no try to transmit the German idiom of singing, which is very different from the British one. I also have to insist on total clarity of diction, on which Wagner himself was so particular. But there is no point in putting on extra rehearsal at this juncture: *Lohengrin* is an enchanting opera and there would be the danger of singers becoming strained at over-rehearsal. So we just have to do things a little quicker and use our brains."

Haitink taps his forehead in a gesture which doubtless goes back to the 19th-century Brahms of *Lohengrin*. Does Haitink agree with the conventional view that Wagner gives a ponderous beginning to *Lohengrin*?

"It is a hesitation. 'Every conductor should be totally loyal to the work he is preparing. When I first started studying the score I suppose I went along to some extent with that view, but the more I have believed that Wagner composed precisely the first act he wanted. He wrote the opera in reverse, you know, starting with the end. So-called weaknesses at the end. I don't now believe that they are weaknesses at all, but rather part of a finely calculated and carefully planned structure. This is Wagner's greatest German romantic opera. *Lohengrin* is more operatic but it is in *Lohengrin* that we really hear the spirit of Wagner."

Haitink is cautious about naming the next Wagner opera he will tackle. He admits that he has been studying *The Ring* and *Tristan*, but adds quickly that this is purely for pleasure. He does, though, reckon that the experience of *Lohengrin* will make him eliminate "concert-hall Wagner", the *Siegfried* and the *Lohengrin*. He will be his last appearance at Covent Garden for some time, so opera-



Bernard Haitink

goers who wish to hear Haitink will have to make the journey to Glyndebourne, where he has taken over from John Pritchard as musical director.

Fashion

by Prudence Glynn



Angelo Tarlazzi

Browns of South Molton St
already stocks 70 per cent of France Andrevie, and is about to take Tarlazzi this coming spring
Photographs by Harry Kerr



Zozo



France Andrevie

Simpson



Thinking man's blouson

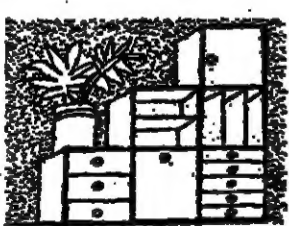
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Are you ready-to-wear it?

If Yves Saint Laurent is remembered for nothing else (and he will be) he will be remembered as the designer who broke the hold of traditional French Haute Couture. In 1972 the perspicacious Yves enjoyed his efforts on the Rue Cambon, ready-to-wear side of his activities and stated in effect that it was street fashion, to which the mass market producer is of course much closer, which dictated trends. He was not a moment too soon, for breathing down the necks of the Establishment was the dazzling Kenzo Takada who for the next five years was to be among the most influential fashion makers in the world. (The life span used to be 10 years, but what with Concorde and inflation things have a bit speeded up.)

Saint Laurent was also uniquely qualified to perform the task. Trained in the highest traditions—and they do not come any higher—of Paris couture, robed as a lad in the mantle of the great Christian Dior, the weight of which proved too much, he is also the most responsive to the echoes of latent taste and consumer desire. Saint Laurent made blue denim OK for designers. He also made the ready-to-wear more chic than standing around having a dress made, as a gardening French suit once pointed out to me, for the same case as a small greenhouse.

The problem for most women is that there are an awful lot of gowns, in life and in fashion, and which one should you follow? The answer is, the designer who happens to be walking your way. That brings us to the question, which way are you walking? Gone are those long straight boulevards labelled 'skirt two inches above/below the knee, navy blue coat for spring, hats must match gloves'. Instead it is Time Out time, buy your own compass, steer by the stars, and Heaven help all who look like nothing on earth at the end of the journey.

Nothing could highlight this point more than the recent pret a porter shows in Paris. On the one hand, the predictable scendies, wheeling out the wooden horse to justify inefficient seating arrangements, opening it to reveal not armed warriors of design but a few tasty reprises. On the other some really new names. I can suggest four. The first is the boutique Zozo in the Rue Pierre LeClerc which for cheap (all things are comparative) sexy clothes, tube frilled petticoats etc.—is unbearable. Nearby is France Andrevie, 2 Place des Victoires, a young woman whose elegance and distinguished handwriting have made her a great favorite with

American buyers. Vera Finberg, 20 Rue du Vieux-Colombier makes the most beautiful knitwear, soft colours, gentle touches, pretty, flattering stuff to pack and wear and wear, and pack.

But the most interesting discovery for me was Angelo Tarlazzi. Now, here is a man who has been around. Seventeen years in the business, in his native Rome (with Caros) then New York with the legendary Jerry Silverman, then with Jean Paton, then suddenly on his own.

I thought his collection was simply beautiful. He is one of those very rare designers who knows when to leave fabric alone—Givenchy has always said that the material tells you what you may do with it, but Tarlazzi, in the same way as our own Yuki, lets it do what it most wants to. Under the apparent negligence there is the eagle eye of the erstwhile haute couturier, however. Those soft, cotton miracles of fold and drape are in fact made not of the any old cheesecloth you may care to strain your tea through but of the finest, softest, long staple Egyptian cotton.

They do not crease, they float and flow, and they were commanded by the properly intransigent M Tarlazzi from an Italian mill which was famous for prints. "For me," he assured them, "you will make just the best cloth, in five coloursways" and they did, and it is truly lovely. Tarlazzi has got not only an amazing eye for fabric but the nous to know that the more simple (simpler, not simpler) the better the cloth must be to support it. There are a few prints, with which he declares himself unsatisfied, though I thought they were neat.

But what I really liked was this control—not contrivance of his machine. All of a sudden, Angelo Tarlazzi, without fear or favour, has discovered himself. Customers benefit from his training. The trousers are tactfully slurred at the waist, for comfort and fit, the colours are ravishing, the knitwear ought to push Scotland further towards devotion if they could hire him. Then he wants a woman to buy just one piece from him to start with, and wear it with something else, which cannot but appeal to the inflation hit poor Brits.

Only two pangs. "Where did you get those wonderful colours?" said I. "Oh well, from my water colour paint box. Mind you, the producer wasn't very pleased, he said what's this. But he did them." "How long?" I quavered. "Oh, 24 hours I suppose. And that beautiful fabric," they said we make prints, but OK. For you we'll make it plain." In Italy.



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NEW BOOKS

An unknown country

A History of Rhodesia
By Robert Blake
(Eyre Methuen, £12.50)

"If the outside world has taken little interest in the history of Rhodesia from the end of the rebellion to the beginning of the federation," declares Robert Blake at the start of his new book, "this is largely because much of it is not very interesting."

Yes, indeed, and since the period in question—1897 to 1953—takes up more than half of Rhodesia's story and up to one-third of A History of Rhodesia, that is a brave thing to say, but there is nothing in this scrupulously professional account of the land between the Limpopo and the Zambezi, between the Kalahari and Mozambique, once described as among the most beautiful in the world, to make the reader disagree. Lord Blake's title is plain enough, but should have been even more so, for this is, specifically, a political and constitutional history of Rhodesia, which lightens our ignorance in those fields, but does not increase our understanding much beyond them. A pity, because out of that same ignorance and indifference

have grown the events of the last 25 years and today.

There is a mystery here. Whatever you think of Cecil Rhodes, Dr. Jameson, Roy Welensky or Ian Smith, in themselves they are not dull. Neither was the brilliant late Victorian eccentric, Harry Johnston of Nyasaland, nor the clever Godfrey Huggins, later Lord Malvern, nor Garfield Todd, the "liberal" Prime Minister (all political labels must be handled with care in Africa) and of all these and more Blake sketches throughout the book. Yet except for Rhodes, Jameson Smith and perhaps (in a gentler age) Huggins, none of these interesting individuals directly controlled the course and quality of history itself.

With a few notable exceptions, South Africa, too, has lacked major personalities in Government, yet there is nothing discovered, the history of South Africa—the stakes are so high, the risks so awful, some of the people so talented—so why is Rhodesia, an historical phenomenon of the past 80 years, so peculiarly second-rate? Is it because the white immigrants were so? That

Southern Rhodesia (which is the "Rhodesia" Blake is concerned with) was once cruelly but unforgettably described as "The Serengeti Mass" (Kenya being for the Officers). We have so little information about them. I should like to know exactly where in Britain they came from, and how many went back. How valid is the claim that they had, and still have, nowhere else to go? Many only went in the 1950s and 1960s, like many outside commentators, is sceptical on their homelessness. No imaginative writer has spoken for, or even against, them (contrast again South Africa's comparative riches). It may be that there is nothing to say, but I find that hard to believe, and now that their fate is, for the first time, in the hands of the uncaring wide world, that long silence becomes desperate and sad. Apart from a few urbane High Table remarks about their passion for sport and poor food, it is not known here. We learn even less, of course, about the blacks.

A History of Rhodesia suggests that the pervasive mediocrity of Rhodesian history may arise chiefly from

its repetitiveness and inflexibility. Ever since 1890, when Rhodes, high on the white supremacy of Ruskin's racial mission, first sniffed the air to the North of Mafeking and sent the Pioneer Column into Mafekingland, the essential features have remained the same. The whites established themselves on the plateau by shuffling huge territories by "rights" of conquest, showing one another and ancient black societies, out of the way, fully taking cattle and land. Glamour, arrogance, idealism, trickery, misgovernment and injustice were in it from the start. The military suppression of the Ndebele and the Shona tribes was so overwhelming, Blake says, that their descendants have covered under the memory ever since. Lord Blake discerns five turning-points in the history of Southern Rhodesia: the European occupation; the rule of the Chartered Company; the replacement, in 1923, by Responsible Government, chosen by referendum in preference to union with South Africa (much covered by Smith); the establishment of the Central African Federation in 1953; its dismemberment 10 years later; UDI

in 1965. The main narrative ends there, but an epilogue most usefully brings the story through Tiger and Fearless to Kinsinga, Dr Owen and as far as June this year—a remarkable achievement in a book of this weight. The true history of the past 12 years may, as Blake observes, never be written at all. There are too many people of all persuasions committed to not telling the whole truth.

A History of Rhodesia does that, as far as it goes: as a dispassionate account it will be invaluable. Moreover, Lord Blake writes with a dry wit and a keen mind for irony, in which the Rhodesian story is unusually rich. It is Todd, not a white Rhodesian racist, who enters Blake in the night between his garden at Dada and asks: why should we ever have to leave? It is the reforming Edgar Whitehead, not Smith, who is the most powerful of the police state available for those who wish to use it today. And it is most remarkable of all, perhaps, to read a book at present in which Harold Wilson emerges as a figure of compassion, dignity, and tireless good will.

The blight of caste

Louis Heren

India: A Wounded Civilization
By V. S. Naipaul
(André Deutsch, £3.95)

By Charles Allen
(André Deutsch, £5.95)

Mr Naipaul's latest book about the land of his forefathers has offended many Indians, and I must admit that a few passages reminded me of Katherine Mayo's offensive Mother India which I read as a young soldier when temporarily stationed in Poona. It is a devastating book, but proof that a novelist of Mr Naipaul's stature can often define problems quicker and more effectively than a team of economists and other experts from the World Bank. Not that Mr Naipaul is much concerned about industrialization. He admits that India has done rather well in establishing new industries, but the country is still in a mess. The promise of a national rebirth which made independence day in Delhi so wonderful has disappeared completely, and the ending of the Emergency has hardly been a new beginning.

Mrs Gandhi has been replaced by a postmodernist religion, to what is expected of men. It cannot be otherwise. The quality of a faith is not a constant, but depends on the quality of the man who professes it, which is why he believes that the religion of Vinoba

further decay that Mr Naipaul seems to suggest, will bring about a peasants' revolt. Perhaps, but a visit Mr Naipaul made to squatters' settlements outside Bombay in 1965, the poor are no less caste-ridden than Brahmin landowners. Even in such a self-help community, a desperate effort to break with the past seems doomed to fail because the poorest of the poor still depend upon the touchables to shovel away their night soil.

We are back in that shitt-orientated society which Gandhi tried but failed to reform. Dharma, which Mr Naipaul regards the bone of Indian life, still binds most Hindus to the past—even those who have most to gain by escaping it.

Yet Mr Naipaul reminds us that the key Hindu concept of dharma—the right way, the sanctioned way, which all men must follow according to their nature—is an elastic concept. At its noblest, it touches the high ideals of other civilizations, and he, a writer, points to Balzac and Proust as examples.

Dharma, Mr Naipaul argues, is creative or crippling according to the status of the civilization, to what is expected of men. It cannot be otherwise. The quality of a faith is not a constant, but depends on the quality of the man who professes it, which is why he believes that the religion of Vinoba

Bhave can only express the dust and defeat of the Indian village.

The blight of caste is not only Untouchability and the consequent defilement of the body, the blight is also the ready-made satisfactions, the diminishing of adventurousness, the pushing away from men of individuality and the possibility of excellence.

Mr Naipaul, perhaps too harshly, blames Gandhi for India's failure to escape from its past. Gandhi awakened India; but the India he awakened was the India of defeat, the holy land he needed after the racial indignities he suffered in South Africa.

I turned with relief to Mr Allen's scrapbook of British India. Raj. It is a combination of a family photo album and a Sears Roebuck mail catalogue with evocative commentary. It provides a splendid nostalgia trip, and for me an uncomfortable afterthought.

Mr Naipaul makes more than one reference to Indians as a conquered people, and I found myself wondering if as a conquered people they were happier under the British Raj. Not having any nostalgia for imperialism, I quickly rejected the afterthought, but independent India could do with some of that old British optimism and self-confidence. For that matter, so could modern Britain.

European asset

Iverach McDonald

The Serpent and the Nightingale
By Cecil Parrott
(Faber, £7.50)

The riddle of the title (Aesop? Edward Lear?) remains unsolved until we come to pages 49-52. When addressing the United Nations the Soviet Premier Khrushchev said to speak in the most beautiful and beguiling of Russian, Mr Hector McNeil, British Minister of State, was anxious to put his fellow delegates on their guard. Cecil Parrott, as good Foreign Office adviser, flushed out for McNeil one of Russia's very own fables, a story by Krylov about the serpent who was given the voice of a nightingale yet could not sing. The animals who still saw his venomous fangs. Unhappily Vysinsky was able to produce another Krylov fable which demonstrated that, when it comes to venom, the serpent is a cut above the nightingale. The round ended with points to both sides.

Sir Cecil Parrott's second book of memoirs, which takes him from 1945 to 1977, is a bid to inform and entertain to Moscow as minister and

back to Prague again as ambassador, recounts many such minor diplomatic encounters. Some of us who had to call on the taciurni Mr Attlee at Number 10 will sympathize with Sir Cecil in his ordeal at a Moscow embassy dinner. He had feverishly to keep a flow of interpretation going while Attlee engaged the hardly less taciturn Malenkov in a long session of almost total silence. "I had to turn myself into a kind of question master in a BBC guessing game feature," Ernest Bevin of course provides several endearing memories. Bevin was uneasy after recognizing communist China. "I didn't ought never to have done it." He turned to the permanent head of the Foreign Office, later Lord Strang, "I was Lord Willie, what put me up to it."

Sir Cecil gives excellent accounts of travel in Russia, including hard journeys to northern monasteries, sufficiently far off the tourist track to reveal the appalling medieval poverty in the villages and on the farms. Nearer Moscow he seems to have wandered into a strictly for the eyes of a European, his plea of innocence even when

he blundered almost slap into the arms of two high Soviet leaders and their guards in the grounds of a very secret Politburo sanatorium.

Among the stories and the travels are many serious and sensible comments on Khrushchev's Russia; Sir William Ewart, ambassador at the time, covered much the same ground in his A Double Life. Sir Cecil also gives warm and deeply perceptive chapters on the Czechs and Slovaks whom he knew in the communist takeover of 1948. In the worst of the Stalinist oppression, and again before and immediately after the 1988 invasion. He learned to appreciate the Czechs not simply through personal meetings but through their history, their music, and their literature. A reader is left more keenly aware that this distinctive Czech culture is one of the strongest strands in the national self-consciousness. Eliot has taught the Czechs to expect the worst; it has also given them a determination to survive. In his engaging book Sir Cecil Parrott reminds us that the Czechs are a European asset.

Crime

The Birds of Prey
By John Ralston Saul
(Macmillan, £3.95)

Gadget
By Nicolas Freeling
(Heinemann, £4.50)

I suppose that nowadays we must accept fact increasingly sticking its ugly claws into fiction, much though I myself wish to avoid it, but it does it this week in two exciting novels.

Saul's book plainly comes from a private obsession with the mysterious death in a plane crash in 1968 of General Alphonse Juin, Chief of the French General Staff. The true explanation, which might be only extraordinary human error, will in all probability never be known. But Saul unequivocally points the finger at a hidden, powerful force in French political life, part of the time naming names and partly inventing. Nor is it always possible to tell which, particularly when there is a minor figure presented almost alternately as either one Bertrand or one Fontaine.

Has he exposed a fearsome scandal? No. Since the book is fiction nothing he claims can be properly tested. But he, however, writes a work of imagination showing us a universal weakness in the human psyche? Yes, on the whole. But his theme is poisoned by the real facts that permeate it, and it is also perhaps something more French than universal. The book is indeed very French, obscurely philosophical at times, perversely poetical at others, even on occasion reading as if translated (and not at that well with "before" used for "in front of" for instance). But it is exciting. You read on, baulk.

Freeling's book is that contemporary bugbear, the security of radioactive material. He

boasts that his book is "largely the work of a distinguished American physicist" and, by gum, there are pages of unintelligible figures and symbols to prove it. Yet, too, he has the words of any novelist's pen, man's foolishness, and brings it out through a thoroughly exciting story, though I must admit I found this often obscured by idiosyncratic style. We have come a long way since the early Van der Valks.

Death of an Expert Witness, by P. D. James (Faber, £3.95). I could lay this down; but only to exclaim: Jesus, she writes well. Forensic lab mystery marries Code, sorts out some devastatingly accurate murder.

Dreadland, by George V. Higgins (Secker & Warburg, £3.90). Searching direction change for this tighter, tougher-than-tough American. Rich, and backward look into upper Boston, he ambiguously murky past. Here's a writer.

Rekill, by Ian Kennedy Martin (Heinemann, £4.50). Ho, you intellectual snobs, don't shy away because he's the Sweeney crooner Set in America and Albania, here's a tense, crackling serious adventure novel.

Honeybush's Haven, by Michael Innes (Gollancz, £3.95). "Honeybush squeezed past these sweetest persons" perhaps that says it all. Urbane, mannered, most pleasurable, with artifice plot, retirement mansion setting.

Gently Instrumental, by Alan Hunter (Corgi, £3.75). Death at East Anglia music festival is studiously observed. Somewhat thick with culture but Superintendant Gently reaches for his metaphorical gun satisfactorily enough.

Forbidden Land, by Robert B. Parker (Deutsch, £3.50). Spencer, the thinking-man's private investigator (if that's not a contradiction in terms) rides again, in holiday Cape Cod, sorts out some trouble, a marriage.

The Theta Syndrome, by Eileston Trevor (New English

Library, £3.95). Extreme readability is what marks Trevor out, even in this hospital thriller with a touch of the ghosts set in Los Angeles.

Scared to Death, by Anne Morice (Macmillan, £2.25). A lovely idea for your fictional murder, occurring at provincial arts festivals and nearby racecourse. Lots of good old larger-than-life characters.

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H. R. F. Keating

Fiction

Sunset at Blandings
By P. G. Wodehouse
(Chatto & Windus, £3.95)

On any day during the last week, your reviewer could have been discovered, the volume under appraisal drooping from a limp and nervous hand, staring dully ahead, the eyes glazed, the brow sickled by the pale cast of thought and murmuring, "This is a sorry state of things," and "That it should come to this."

Now as those of you who read my piece on the last Jeeves opus will know, I yield to no one in my devotion to P. G. Wodehouse—though not, it is true, to the entire canon, since I can't be doing with the Oldest Member. When I am not a Jeeves person, I am a Blandings person. Those nine novels have seen me through thick and thin. When all else has failed, on interminable train journeys, in unrequited love, influenza and emergency homes, I have been soothed and diverted by the

Flashman's Lady
By George MacDonald Fraser
(Barrie & Jenkins, £4.50.)
A Ruffo in Calabria
By Peter Nichols
(Constable, £4.50.)
But Answer Came There None
By Yvonne Mitchell
(Constable, £3.75.)
A Superstitious Age
By Rosalind Brackenbury
(Harvester Press, £4.95)

Harry Flashman and his wife are triumphantly determined to be irresistible. Flashy confesses he is a badman, a scoundrel—he bawks, funks, runs for dear life, having been the terror of Rugby in Tom Brown's days—but as an apparent adult he is frank, accurate, astute capital fun and he ain't sentimental. In Flashman's Lady, he professes brilliantly on Britain and the East, mostly Madagascar, of 1942-45: he is impregnated with astonishing stamina and wit by George MacDonald Fraser and anyone like me who has not kept up with this master humorist should start here.

N. J. Crisp
The successful author of numerous TV scripts—Secret Army, Colditz, The Brothers and many more—here provides a compulsively ingenious spy thriller, 'taut and effective'—captures the reader's sympathy as well as his attention. Times Literary Supplement £3.95

THE ODD JOB MAN
BLOOD SPOOR

James McVean
A fast-moving battle for survival set in Africa, an adventure which is as large and exciting as the continent itself. Yorkshire Post £4.75

THE ROMMEL PLOT
John Tarrant
A British agent is the target for a desperate manhunt by both Nazis and Allies in this gripping wartime novel. £4.25

TWO-WAY MIRROR
David Stuart Leslie
The world of theatre and films provides a wickedly entertaining background for this perceptively drawn triangle of love. £4.80

MACDONALD AND JANE'S

bleedings of Clarence, ninth Earl of Emsworth, speculated about Galahad Threepenny's story. Sir Gregor Parsloe and the prawns, followed the fortunes of young hearts sundered in springtime and men with false beards and names infiltrated into the castle.

The place itself, its parks, gardens and meadows, I know from caviare to outs, the nooks of Beach's pantry, the cranies of the Empress's sty. Blandings is "as near resembling an enchanted fairland as a dammit"—which is how Galahad unexpectedly describes it in this book. Which brings me back to what the village constable would call the point of "this" book. You might think that we devotees would be underestimating enough to lap up eagerly any last little crumb the Master has left. You would be wrong. We have our pride, and Wodehouse had his.

Sunset at Blandings is no good. Not that, as presented here in its rough, incomplete state, whether it would, at some distant date, have become any good, if he'd lived to finish and polish it. I'm uncertain. I suspect not. Wodehouse was alert, conscientious, hard-working to the last, but he was

Elspeth, Flashy's wife, has become delightful counteracting much of her beloved Harry's gory anti-heroism with a zeal for life that includes loyalty to his every shift in the wrong direction; the joys down her own account of their adventures and, though helpless at spelling say, completion, she is not the fool she tries to look; lacking an education at Rugby where, as Flashy says, to survive physically one becomes a moral wreck, she insists that middle-class nursery morality rules and in the middle of massacres and outcousness she declares, "It ought not to be allowed."

Both Flashmans land up in Madagascar where a despotic black queen forces Flashy to be her paramour, but pragmatism is almost his invention. Mr Fraser's narrative drive and critical affection for makers and shakers of dominions are wholehearted pleasures.

The witness of force is one of several themes in an exciting and thoughtful first novel by Peter Nichols. Ruffo in

There are 100 pages of it and the book runs to over 200, so what else do they offer us for almost £4? Mock-scholarship appendices by Richard Osborne, that what, and pages of the author's notebooks—"Work in Progress", which are unilluminating and unamusing. Also an earnest survey, complete with maps and plans, of Bland-

Calabria. Mr Nichols (The Times's man in Italy) has a fine description in his book of a hawk using its wings for balance while plucking a mouse with its feet, and at first it is tempting to see this as an emblem for the life of his main character, Fabrizio Ruffo. But Ruffo's nature is sophisticated, changeable, puzzling as he leads his armed militia in 1939 against French-occupied republicans in southern Italy. Mr Nichols succeeds in being historically exact as well as bringing to life an army and its major opponents and victims.

The freshness is in the style of his narrator, an intellectual teacher who sees as "conscience" and who is responsive to southern sensuousness. (I shall not forget his horse-drawn "a comfortable, playful" road from Borgo to Ruffo, becomes a cardinal through family influence, and when King Ferdinand flees to Palermo, Ruffo sets out to transform people's minds with a punitive army of justice, coverts, hoodlums—anyone attracted by loot and sucking cities. But it is the gradual transformation of himself and the narrator, as they progress through conceiving theories and the violent development they cause, that shapes this novel.

Yvonne Mitchell's gracefully literate new novel, But Answer Came There None, is also visionary, and well-wit with humour. Her central character

Radio: The Great Years
By Derek Parker
(David & Charles, £4.95)

The Great Years: the words suggest a long and gone-for-ever, time which will not come again, and almost certainly it will not—at least in the form that is celebrated here. In so many respects, radio has gone down before television and I for one do not see how the present relative positions will be reversed. Nor, I suggest, does Derek Parker; in his book's last pages he writes sadly: "Talk to people in the street and one finds that very few of them are really aware of radio."

Perhaps it is a matter of stimulation, of which apparently human beings can never have enough. There can be no question at all that the small coloured screen gives more and larger doses of the stuff than radio. Yet reading

by presursors to the throne, and relatives with as good a claim to it as his father. Plans, treacheries, uprisings, public and private cruelties practised in the name of statecraft, the death of brothers, sister and mother before he was into his teens, the loss of his wife, the loss of the poet John Skelton, misogynist and scholar, and it is not hard to see how "A Delightful small new rose" (Skelton's tribute to a three-year-old) became the warbling yearning of the Holbein portrait. Mrs Jones is a persuasive and able writer whose theories regarding Henry's emotional development have been thoughtfully developed.

Quick guide

The Making of Henry VIII by Marie Louise Bruce (Collins, £5.95). The author, a young boy, handsome and good-looking, is the full height of 5ft 3in was free at last to marry Catherine, his brother's widow, and was crowned king of England. He was the hope and joy of all. If future actions can be traced to childhood, Henry was a dark one as king, yet also a danger to the sacred Arthur, surrounded by threat posed



Market Blandings station, alias Buildwas

ings, its architecture, and layout, internal and external, and a diverting piece of detective work on the part of the author. The book is a collection of train times and early copies of Bradshaw.

All of this strikes me as twee, in the way that Winnie the Pooh and Peter Rabbit in Latin are twee. The business of comparing various volumes and spotting discrepancies, speculating about what Wodehouse would have done with various

is alert to diplomatic niceties and on an imaginary trip to Heaven she refuses a ham sandwich because St Peter looks Jewish. But it is a bold, deeply felt exploration of the secret life of one old woman who, like Rabbit in Latin, risks her every afternoon, is under-valued.

She is in hospital, in pain, pushing away companions and pills with scolding spirit as she lives concurrently in her past, mostly, and in her thoughts of Heaven and Hell. In a final personal choice she puts herself in the place of her wayward child, her brother, and moving, as that, like the novel, celebrates loving imagination.

The human obligation to choose inspires Rosalind Brackenbury to write like an unforgivable angel in A Superstitious Age, the pages brood about freedom of two. Provincial wall, the silence and sunlight in an English provincial kitchen, the complex gaps and precipice, in a 15-year-old marriage as an English protestant, his history is a civil trial separation from his wife and young son. He goes to France to tie up research for a book, is seduced by a girl student, through conceiving theories and the violent development they cause, that shapes this novel.

Mr Parker with the aid of memory and this is indisputable book for those who remember the Great Years—I recall radio as itself immensely stimulating, demanding my attention and getting it with no reserve. I never knew I was having to make an effort of imagination and in fact do not. The book is a good one since television gave us something which demands virtually no effort at all that we have discovered that radio—at its rate creative radio: the plays, the surrealism, comedies, the features—demands a fair amount. Typically we now believe that effort to be good for us; but Mr Parker is so much that is said to be good and known to be so, we give it up if possible. If radio was the wine, television is now the brandy of the sound. What will be the next? And what will stop us moving on to it?

recreates rejected home love? A beautifully made, challenging modern parable.

Grass Roots, by Joe Ashton (Quarant, £4.50) is the closest guide to British party politics since Phineas Finn. It is robust reading, much about the party and its members, and through generations; the hero, Michael Mullin, a steelworker Labour MP from northern Grimsby, rises and collides against Labour, Conservative (and, presumably, Liberal) machines, and struggles against political "weasel words" that diminish people and truth. When a Grimsby arms factory closes, it is equipped for contemporary life or war but making 14,000 men and women redundant, he risks almost everything—instinctively rather than romantically—for the people who are his steady roots.

The Dark Fagot, by Edward Lucie-Smith (Blood & Briggs, £4.95). "If I had known," Shaw's chaplain says of the reality of St Joan's death, "I would have worn her from her hair to her heels." Lucie-Smith's well-researched first novel on the murderous sadism that one of Joan of Arc's contemporaries, Gilles de Rais, carried out in peacetime against hundreds of boys. The narrator, a childhood friend of Gilles, is a misanthrope, well towards the book's end he finds his story harrowing though restrained.

Myrna Blomberg

Gone forever?

But these are thoughts on reading Mr Parker and they do not, except by rather distant implication, figure in his text: in only 156 heavily illustrated pages there is of course an early limit to how deeply radio's history can be plumbed. Some characteristics permeate the novel: the all-too-familiar example of the 1977 BBC comedy, the security of radioactive material. He

A View of the Thames, by Norman Shrapnell (Collins, £5.95). The Thames is the most significant geographical feature in southern England. From it London and London's extraordinary commercial and imperial adventure arose, and one should not be surprised that the London River should still be an inextinguishable source of good writing. Norman Shrapnell's parliamentary sketches, reviews, and summer recess pieces have been the principle ornaments of The Guardian in our generation. He lives beside the Thames, and his book about this river is as delightful and as witty as you would expect from such a source.

The 19th Annual W.H. Smith £1,000 Literary Award has been won by Ronald Lewin for 'SLIM: The Standardbearer' Published by Leo Cooper £7.50

PREVIOUS WINNERS HAVE BEEN

Patrick White	Voss	V. S. Naipaul	The Monte Men
Laurie Lee	Cider with Rosie	Robert Gittings	John Keats
Nadine Gordimer	Friday's Footprint	John Forster	The French Lieutenant's Woman
R. A. Hevelley	We Think the World of You	Nan Fairbrother	New Lives, New Landscapes
Gerald Friedland	The Birthday King	Kathleen Raine	The Last Country
E. H. Gombrich	Reflections on a Hobby Horse	Brian Moore	Catholics
Leonard Woolf	Beginning Again	Anthony Powell	Temporary Kings
R. C. Hutchinson	A Child Possessed	Jon Stalworthy	Wilfred Owen: A Biography
Joan Riley	Wide Saragosa Sea	Seamus Heaney	North

WHSMITH

مركز ١٥٠٠

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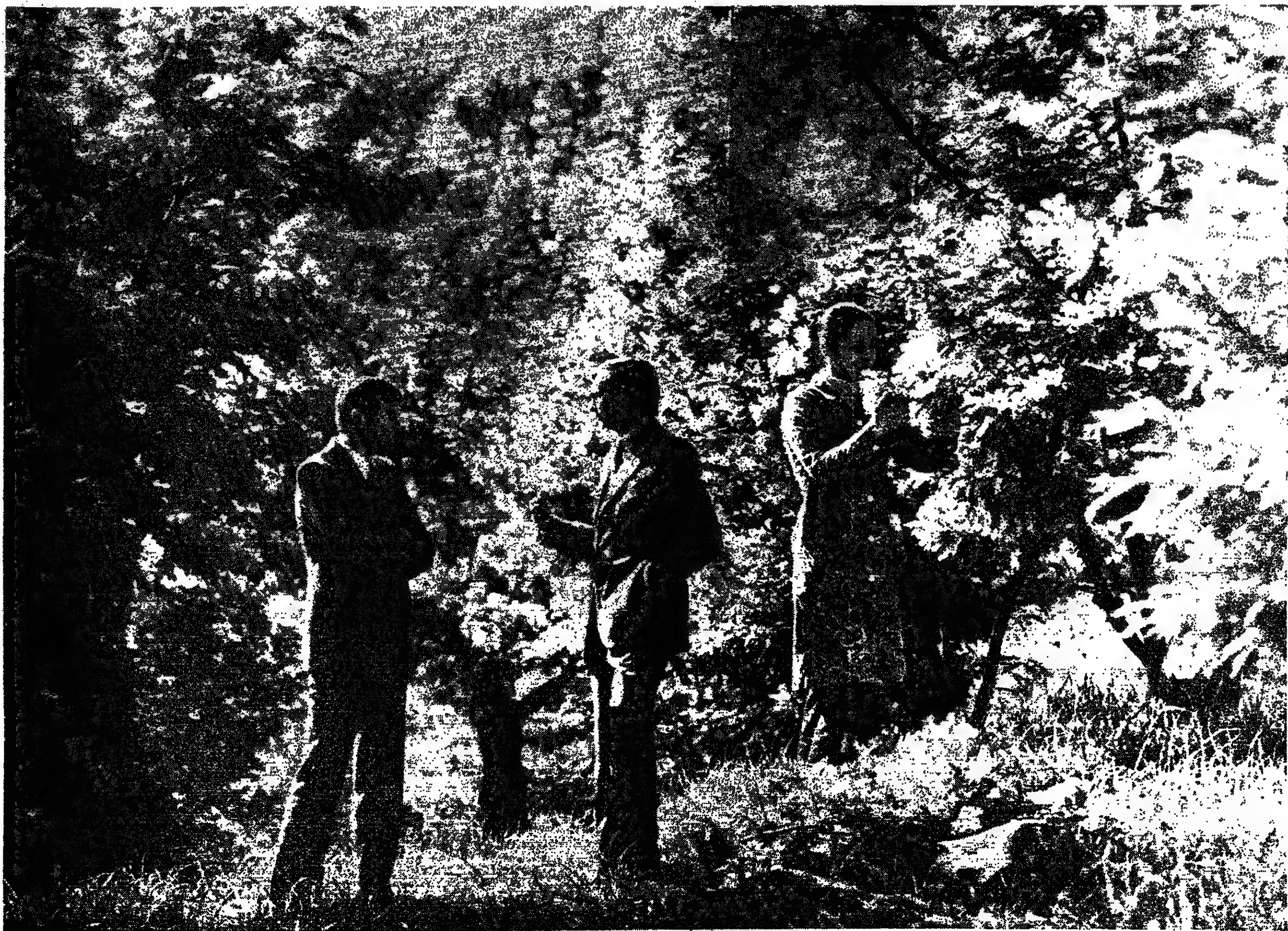
Like most successful

companies Lancôme know the value of expert advice. They appreciate that Norwich Union are specialists with an informed and sympathetic understanding of their clients' business and its insurance needs.

Although many major international companies enjoy Norwich Union's personal approach to insurance, it isn't reserved for big names only.

Take your problems to

Norwich and you'll find they speak your language too.



Ronald Butt

The cloud threatening to tarnish Mr Callaghan's silver lining

"The real victory will come," said Mr Callaghan at the Lord Mayor's banquet on Monday, "when we achieve and maintain a steady and continuous growth in our economy, a much lower level of unemployment and steadier prices."

And he might have added that the most important of these achievements, and the key to all the others, is growth—not the feeble, booming expansion with which the electorate has been tricked in past "recoveries" from economic restraint, but the genuine increase in the use of resources for profitable and salable production, which an industrial country must have to pay its way in an increasingly difficult world market.

Some of the necessary preconditions for this kind of growth obviously do now exist, and the Government can take some credit for them. We are now running a substantial current trade surplus, but reserves have risen beyond most expectations; government borrowing has been restrained; the annual rate of inflation has nearly halved compared with 1975-76 and should stay near single figures next year if there is not a pay explosion.

As a result of all this, Mr. Healey has been able to make a start on creating the conditions which give a chance of economic revival.

Interest rates have been brought down and are at least no longer a disincentive to investment; industry seems to have a greater intention to invest; and the Treasury expects this to continue; the Chancellor has been enabled to make a start on reducing taxation (to be continued next April), which should be an incentive to demand.

The object of the cautious policy of easing up on restraint is to bring into use the very great deal of at present unused capacity of men and plant.

But a major question remains. Will easier financial conditions really stimulate production, and particularly production for export? Or do we find ourselves again at the beginning of the kind of consumer demand which once more throws the economy out of balance and can only be satisfied by imports on a scale we cannot afford?

This is the danger. Industrial production remains pretty flat and there is a clear risk that the demand which should result from more purchasing power will lead rather to a stronger growth of imports than to a sustained improvement in



Mr Callaghan and Mr Tapsell: a wary reply on exchange controls.

Industrial exports, even if North Sea oil does make good the balance for the time being.

Will our own industry (motor cars are the obvious example) really manage to meet enough of the higher demand to stop this happening? In the last quarter, our export performance has much improved, though in the last month this improvement has not been so marked. But there is no doubt that we shall increasingly be exporting in a difficult world market, in which other countries will also be suffering from low investment and poor trading conditions.

It, in a buyer's market, we cannot compete on prices, and even more on quality and delivery; if demand simply goes into imports, then we shall once again get, not the kind of growth we need, but a consumer-led inflation.

The Government's strategy for avoiding this is the caution with which it is easing up. That is why it is moving in slow, hesitant stages with its tax cuts; why it is still cautious about the money supply; and

why Mr Healey still resists the pressures to follow the floating of the pound upwards by relaxing exchange controls so as to allow British investment overseas.

The other day Mr Peter Tapsell, one of the newly appointed Conservative Treasury shadow ministers, put to the Chancellor the danger that, if exchange controls are not relaxed, the pound will appreciate so much that our industry will either become less competitive abroad, or that we build up too high reserves.

Mr Healey's reply was instructive of the wariness with which the Government views the present silver lining. He is disinclined to accept Mr Tapsell's advice partly because we still have large debts to reinstate our reserves, and because he doesn't think much of trading off short-term capital inflows for long-term capital outflows.

But Mr Healey's real reason was conveyed in these words: "It would be unwise to dismantle the apparatus on exchange control before we were more certain that the present situation was likely to be enduring."

ing. I hope it will be—but we cannot be sure."

What the Government fears is that it might be unable to use the reserves to maintain the pound in another crisis if capital had been exported for investment. In any case, it is inclined to prefer, since investment is sluggish worldwide, that investment capital should be deployed at home, rather than abroad.

It is not easy to dissent from the Treasury view on this matter, in the light of its clear apprehensions about the precariousness of the present economic improvement. There will certainly be no rapid growth and there is the danger that the modest stimulus that the Government is applying might cause the economy to overheat without bringing the unemployed resources of men and machines into use to create the right kind of growth.

This is, first and foremost, a problem for industry and all sides of it. The proper use of resources; the problems of investment, profitability and productivity, will not be settled

by direct intervention by the Government. But for industry to do what it ought to do, confidence is needed and that means confidence for the longer as well as the shorter term.

Where is confidence to come from? It is to this that Mr Callaghan and Mr Healey ought now to address themselves.

Industry may be fairly happy about the Government's policies now, but on what basis can it be optimistic about the performance of another Labour Government if it should win the election which cannot now be more than a year to 18 months away?

In ministerial speeches, it has become axiomatic that our resources, public or private, should be used more productively and in particular that resources have to be shifted from the non-productive apparatus of state bureaucracy. On the other hand, we also have a manpower problem which suggests that a truly modernized industry will not be able to use all the manpower available—and this raises the question of the role of the service industries in a more productive society.

Yet the whole direction of Labour policy for the future points the other way—towards further state expansion, more intervention, more costly bureaucracy. The economy is not going to be put on a right course by economic techniques alone. The growth that Mr Callaghan wants depends on politics, too.

The paradox of the situation now is that the more successfully the Government appears to win public support by the sensible economic policies dictated by its minority position, and so gives itself a better chance of another term of office, the more industrial and individual confidence will be undermined by suggestions about what a majority Labour Government would do with another term.

What kind of Government would Labour be next time? Unless this uncertainty is cleared up, I do not think the period of prolonged run-up to the election will be conducive to the confidence, hard work, investment, export performance and the growth Mr Callaghan wants to achieve the temporary amelioration of our living standards next year.

That is the Government's real problem—and the problem of the nation. Mr Callaghan ought now to start to talk about it.

The Conservatives: becoming more radical while trying to get back in touch

The appointment of the leader of the recent air traffic control assistants' strike as a trade union organizer for the Conservative Party is the latest manifestation of a trend which must be sending a shudder up the spines of all traditional Tories.

Not content with actively involving itself in trade unionism, the party is openly encouraging students to participate in the NUS and take part in political campaigns in their colleges.

Conservative Central Office is running a series of seminars on social problems. At one such gathering on the subject of vandalism last month not a single voice was to be heard calling for a return of the barch. Instead, the audience listened meekly and attentively as community workers spoke on the need to reduce inequalities of wealth and such "statements of affluence" as multi-storey car parks.

Behind all these activities is the Conservative Party's Community Affairs department, which, since it was set up two years ago, has been engaged in a process of "broadening" the Tories. The reason for setting up the department was the fact, reinforced by the party's defeat in the two elections of 1974, that it was out of touch with several important sections of the population, particularly trade unionists, immigrants, students and small businessmen.

The success of the Liberals and their own brand of community politics was another important factor in persuading the Conservatives to change their image and approach. Mr. Mervyn Kohler, one of the members of the department, says: "There was a feeling that the centres of political influence had moved away from the urban political parties to pressure groups and community bodies. Perhaps the most disturbing thing about the October, 1974, election was that the largest proportion of the first time voters were those who did not vote at all."

The director, Mr. Andrew Rowe, who was brought in to run the Community Affairs department from being a lecturer in social administration and consultant to the voluntary services unit of the Home Office, says: "The Conservatives were very good at keeping in touch with people through whom they lived. But now it is necessary to keep in touch with them through what they were interested in."

Mr. Kohler, who set up the community groups unit in March last year having previously been the Tories' liaison with the housing organization Shelter, says: "The Tory party has traditionally had no ideological link with the immigrant

communities in Britain nor them with us. My job is to demonstrate to both sides that there is much in common and little to fear." The Conservatives badly need to win Asian and West Indian votes. In the last general election the immigrant vote went four to one in favour of Labour. If it had divided more evenly, the Tories reckon they would have held on to 13 marginal seats.

Last year saw the foundation of an Anglo-Asian Conservative Society and an Anglo-West Indian Society and the adoption of the first coloured parliamentary candidate to 13 marginal seats.

He is Mr. Narindar Saroop, already a councillor in Kensington, who will stand for Ruislip in the next election. The Conservative Trade Unionists (CTU) were set up in 1975 to encourage trade unionists to join the Conservative Party and to involve Conservatives in the trade union movement. There are now seven professional organizers and 250 groups. CTU's conference this year had 1,200 delegates, nearly all of whom were students and unionists.

The Conservatives feel that they are beginning to make their voice felt in the union movement.

Mr. John Bowis, national organizer of CTU, almost had a sense of pride in his voice when he told me that Conservatives were largely behind the recent air traffic control assistants' strike. The chairman of the strike committee, Mr. Martin Gellies, is now the deputy national organizer of CTU.

CTU runs courses for trade union branch officers and encourages them to stand for election to national executives. It claims much of the credit for forcing the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs to change its line on the Bullock Report and getting it to reject proposals to nationalize the banks and insurance companies.

The Federation of Conservative Students (FCS) has been in existence since the 1920s. It is only in the past three years, however, that it has deliberately involved itself in student politics and taken part in the NUS. The results of its decision to become more active have been spectacular. Membership has grown from 5,500 in 1973 to more than 16,000. There are now 45 sub-committees in student unions where members of FCS, including this year's president of the Student Union at the once notoriously left-wing Warwick University.

Perhaps most surprising of all, there are now two Conservatives on the NUS executive, otherwise solidly dominated by the broad Left.

Like the CTU, the FCS is keen to demonstrate that it is

not just a paper tiger. It aroused some concern with the Tory hierarchy earlier this year when it came out in favour of legalizing cannabis and it encourages its members to involve themselves in direct action, if necessary, in pursuit of their local demands over accommodation and conditions.

It is about to launch a national campaign against racism and claims to have been instrumental in persuading the NUS executive to condemn Jewish students which had Jewish societies.

The fourth component of the community affairs department, the Small Business Bureau, was set up early last year. Its director, Mr. Geoff Lacey, says: "The party felt that while it was very responsive to the views of big business, it had alienated small business." The bureau now has 2,000 individual subscribers and 150 corporate members, like the National Federation of the Self-Employed. It runs a quarterly newspaper to promote its highly Welsh message that small is beautiful.

The wooing of immigrants, trade unionists, students and small businessmen by the Conservatives looks, at one level, simply like a shrewd piece of political opportunism. Mr. Andrew Rowe insists there is more to it than this. "The Conservative Party is in a farious pursuit of ways of preventing the corporate state and is genuinely trying to create a pluralist society. We see particular communities and voluntary groups as the strongest pillars of such a society," he said.

He would like to see the whole field of voluntary effort in health, education and the welfare services opened up and supported by the Tories as a corrective to an increasingly paternalistic state. Certainly this stress on self-help lies in with the ideological position of the present Conservative leadership.

This new movement within the Conservative Party suggests a humility and an openness to new ideas born of a realization that it is no longer the natural party of government. If it was in its nature to be a party of Community Affairs, it is not just window dressing and is allowed to influence the party as a whole, consequences could be considerable.

If the Conservatives really are intent on listening to and taking note of the views of immigrants, trade unionists, students and voluntary organizations of all kinds, then, as Mr. Andrew Rowe says, "We are faced with the possibility of the Tories becoming the radical and progressive party."

Ian Bradley

For Romania's Jews, the scars are healing

A recent seven-day tour of Romania proved a unique experience as deeply moving as it was revealing—a journey into the richness of the Jewish past, the immensity of Jewish suffering, and the resilience of the Jewish spirit.

By car, plane and three overnight train journeys, we visited (my wife accompanied me) eight Jewish communities in Bucharest, Moldavia and Transylvania. The reception accorded to us everywhere was overwhelming in its warmth and enthusiasm, as I addressed packed congregations in magnificent synagogues varying in age between 90 and 500 years.

Romania is now the world's only country which still has vestiges of old-style East European Jewish life reminiscent of scenes drawn straight from Fiddler on the Roof. Alone among communist states, it maintains diplomatic relations with Israel, and it has pursued a rather liberal line on Jewish community organization and emigration.

Of Romania's 800,000 Jews before the Second World War, 57 per cent survived the Nazi death camps and pogroms. About 85 per cent of these left

after the war, mainly for Israel where every twelfth Jew is a Romanian. The community is now reduced to about 45,000.

The terrible scars left by the Nazi holocaust are deep, indelible and ubiquitous. In Transylvania the entire Jewish population was deported on Eichmann's death-trains, and every Jew over 40 of the pitiful remnant bears the haunting physical and emotional marks of Auschwitz and other extermination camps. In Oradea, on the Hungarian border, for instance, a monument commemorates the 25,000 Jews (out of some 30,000) who never returned.

The rest of Romania—which was not occupied by, and allied with, the Germans—also witnessed frightful massacres by local Fascists. Near Jassy on the Moldavian border with Russia, we stood at the mass grave of 12,000 Jews slain in three days in 1941. This town previously had 55,000 Jews out of a total of 90,000 inhabitants, about 1,000 now remain.

Under his control, 86 communities now function. Though subdued by our standards, they display a modicum of remarkably well-organized communal, religious, social and even educational activities in a country officially committed to strict atheism.

Particularly impressive are the welfare services providing food, clothing, financial help and medical aid for 10,000 members of the community. The condition of Romanian Jewry is thus incomparably superior to what I found on my visit to the Soviet Union in December 1975. Russia's 3,000,000 Jews have no community organization, no special institutions, no Hebrew classes, no youth orchestra, no communal newspaper, such as is published fortnightly in Bucharest.

In Romania we met some 5,000 Jews, including a few hundred children and adolescents. In the three leading Russian cities I visited, with a combined Jewish population of at least 800,000, I saw less than 1,000 Jews and only a single Jewish child. In Romania Jewish martyrdom is recalled in numerous imposing memorials bearing Hebrew and Romanian inscriptions. In Russia, a mainly Jewish blood-bath as immense as occurred at Babi Yar had the evidence all together expressed for 30 years, and its recently erected monument carries any reference to Jews—even memorial meetings are banned at the site.

Even more significant is the difference of attitude to emigration. While applications are occasionally refused, the bulk of Romanian Jewry has been allowed to leave and there is no restriction on the money still wishing to do so. Conversely, there is no movement of Jewish activists in Romania.

The contrast in the treatment of the Jewish minority in the two countries are stark and revealing. Some religious freedom and the right to emigrate are evidently not incompatible with a rapidly communist system of government and society. To extend such tolerance to Russia's Jews and other minorities would not only fulfil the yearnings of many thousands to identify with their traditions or to be reunited with their families; it would merely state what the human rights promised by the Helsinki Accord now being reviewed at Belgrade.

It would remove without cost a major irritant to détente and international understanding, yielding benefits far exceeding the interests of the Dr Immanuel Jakobovits

Dr Immanuel Jakobovits

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An Archaic Jingle

The bride is warm, the lights are low, the world awaits an heir; Cupid has primed his tiny bow, music adorns the air.

But what is this? A noble duke? Or a scoundrel? Which leaves us wondering? who murmurs: "Let my lady sleep—for Ethelred's unwary..."

Ethelred! Ethelred! spent his royal life in bed; one shoe off, and one shoe on, greatly loved by everyone.

Summer has dried the Cheviot tract; the Pictish chief rides south to cram the steaks his whisker lacked in his hairy mouth.

But who came here? A monk? A pirate? Or a mischievous nobby? And murmurs: "Men, the war is off—for Ethelred's unwary..."

Ethelred! Ethelred! spent his royal life in bed; one shoe off, and one shoe on, greatly loved by everyone.

Let crepe replace the castle's chimers and Ethelred's wax sad. The doctors have despaired; the prince

is coronation mad. When, from the King's still vocal throat, surfaced this staid melody: "Please ask them all to go away, for Ethelred's unwary."

Ethelred! Ethelred! spent his royal life in bed; one shoe off, and one shoe on, greatly loved by everyone.

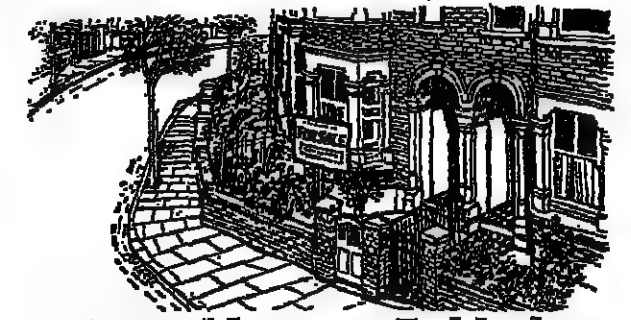
The time has come when all shall rise and try and fall again. Ripe in the grave, with frightened eyes, Creation heaves; and then mad from his watch-cloud thus outcries the Archangel Cherubim: "Cancel the Second Coming, lads, for Ethelred's unwary."

Ethelred! Ethelred! spent his royal life in bed; one shoe off, and one shoe on, greatly loved by everyone.

© Abecedary, by Christopher Logue and illustrated by Bert Kitchen, is published today by Jonathan Cape at £2.50.

Christopher Logue

An ordinary house in an ordinary street



yet it could rescue 7 elderly people from loneliness

Abbeyfield buys and converts ordinary houses into about 7 bed-sitting-rooms each. Here, lonely elderly people enjoy both the privacy of their own rooms with their own furniture around them—and the company of others at two meals a day, served in the dining room by the housekeeper. Abbeyfield helps people of all backgrounds. Abbeyfield is, perhaps, one of the more imaginative solutions to the problem of loneliness in old age. Each Abbeyfield house is established and looked after by its

own group of local voluntary workers. Thus charges are kept to a minimum. Each group is formed as an independent charity. There are more than 600 Abbeyfield houses all over the kingdom. But many more are wanted.

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As a first step, will you write to us for a copy of our explanatory booklet?

ABBAYFIELD SOCIETY

President: Lord Pritchard

35A High Street, Potters Bar, Hertfordshire, Potters Bar 43371.

Wider horizons for those lunchtime literati

Habitues of London literary lunches could be forgiven for experiencing a feeling of déjà vu yesterday. Lord Clark was making his second appearance as speaker in as many weeks, and in both cases, it was to talk about the second volume of his autobiography, *The Other Half*. Yesterday, it was the Foyles gathering. A fortnight ago, it was Liberty's. The store ventured into Foyles territory for the first time and very naughtily got Lord Clark first.

Next week, Hatchards in Piccadilly begin their literary breakfasts, but Lord Clark will not be their guest speaker. Instead, there will be Margaret Drabble and Antonia Fraser; Edna O'Brien will read some poems and three other literary ladies will provide moral support. Lord Clark should feel flattered that it will take six ladies to displace him.

He talked briefly yesterday about the "dreadful new affliction" of authors having to sign their books and complained that he still had 500 copies of his new book to autograph. Sir Harold Wilson, I am told, seemed to be bearing the affliction bravely as he scrawled his name across copies of *A Prime Minister on Prime Ministers* at Selfridges earlier in the day.

Throwing a new light on crime

Those of you who have gazed at photographs of bullets leaving the barrels of guns (no, this is not about shotgun legislation) will be thrilled to learn that a company called Holoco can now project a tap as a bullet so that it is possible to measure every aspect of the projectile and tell if (for example) it has been fired from a suspected murder weapon.

Which is just one of the practical uses of Acoustics (three-dimensional light structures, if you are still wondering). Holoco, who are very special in holograms and special lighting effects, are the first organization to be offered, by the Royal Academy, the opportunity of exhibiting twice in one year.

The new show "Light Fac-

Back at the Foyles luncheon, Lord Norwich said that Lord Clark was lucky that all he had to write was "Lord Clark", whereas he had to write "John Julius Norwich", practically an essay.

Then, Lord Norwich took a side swipe at a fellow autograph giver. "You try and get an unsigned copy of a book by Edward Heath anywhere in the land. If you can, you've got something."

Good news on your pet subject

A learned symposium of acoustic engineers and research scientists at Wembley conference centre yesterday heard why British cars and dogs have been going demoted recently.

D. G. J. Fanshawe, a researcher with MIRA Ltd, reported work carried out with the Medical Research Council which has established that ultrasonic remote controllers

for television sets can emit whistles inaudible to the human ear but disturbing to pets.

The reaction to the "loud unusual noise", Mr Fanshawe said, depended on the pet's psychological state, but he promised that in the near future new types of ultrasonic remote control systems are to be introduced which will be inaudible not only to man but to his pets as well.

A funny way to learn things

I dislike much of what is happening in the commercial cinema today, and to keep alive my faith in film, I am turning increasingly to what used to be called—very offensively—the documentary. There have been big changes here, too. Most noticeably, the genre has acquired a sense of humour; we can laugh as we digest the facts.

Two excellent examples of this have come my way this week, short films made by Video Arts, who specialize in making training films. The first, *How to Lie with Statistics*, for 25 minutes, shows the wrong way for management to conduct appraisal interviews. The second, the 12-minute cartoon *How to Lie with Statistics*, shows the idiotic things that can happen when you try to identify the average man.

It makes good sense that John Cleese, the funny man from Fawlty Towers who is also on the board of directors of

Head-scratching over my "Where is Market Blandings?" Commission did not end with the last of summer. I published on Tuesday, Colonel Michael Cobb, of Plympton, Devon, the railway expert, must have wondered what on earth was going on when he appeared as Colonel Cobb's apology for depriving him of his god name and hereby restore it.

Video Arts, should put his comic gifts to good instructional use in his consumer films. His three roles in *How am I doing?* show him at his versatile best.

The statistics film is the work of Tony Hart, whose ingenious draughtsmanship on television is seriously underrated. The link between Video Arts and television is reinforced by the presence in the company chairman's seat of Audrey Jay, who guided the destinies of *Tonight and Panorama* in the day when to miss an edition of either, was to risk social ostracism.

The two films I have mentioned can be seen today at the New London Theatre.

The Anti-Nazi League, formed to fight the National Front, has got off to an embarrassing (for them) start. In its first press notice, it described itself as "a new ad-hoc group formed by anti-fascists. Given the general mood of apathy that greeted the group's arrival, it is not surprising that the last two words in that statement did not bring the marchers out on the streets. They were, in any case, swiftly corrected by a second notice from the group, admitting that a serious error had been made. Paragraph three should read: a new ad-hoc group formed by anti-fascists."



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LEYLAND RESTRUCTURED AGAIN

Yesterday marked the end of another chapter in the British Leyland saga. It is the formal end of the so-called Ryder plan for the company, published in March, 1975. So long as Lord Ryder remained chairman of the National Enterprise Board and his chosen man, Mr Alex Park, remained chief executive of British Leyland it was difficult, if not impossible, for there to be any significant departure from that original rather rigid blueprint.

The central criticism of the Ryder concept was that, by insisting on extreme centralization, the potentially profitable parts of the enterprise, like special cars, were being dragged down by the dead weight of the mass car division. In particular, since the new "Mini" replacement programme for the mass car division was of such high importance to Leyland from the point of view of employment, there was the standing danger that potentially profitable activities would be deprived of their fair share of necessary development capital.

Coupled with this was the criticism that the Ryder plan committed the taxpayer to heavy future investment in British Leyland, without a prior guarantee that there would be any improvement in the productivity of the group as a whole. Indeed, whatever words may have subsequently been spoken

in an attempt to give the contrary impression, the Government takeover of the company and the very existence of the Ryder plan were widely taken as a public admission that the Government could not allow the mass car division of British Leyland to collapse, whatever its production or profit record. All threats, or statements, to the contrary lacked credibility to the workforce and the management alike.

Mr Edwards, the new chairman, starts with every advantage of a fresh man with fresh ideas and a fresh approach. His initial move, in proposing the division of the company into four operating companies, each with separate financial and separate capital structure, is clearly designed to tackle those central weaknesses of the Ryder approach. It remains to be seen how this division will be achieved and what in practice limited liability means in the rather special context of a group, owned as to 95 per cent by the Government. In theory it should mean that the commercial performance of each component will be separately highlighted and future capital investment programmes and employment levels adjusted accordingly.

There, however, lies the real test facing Mr Edwards. It is relatively easy to change the form in which things are done

and presented. It is always much more difficult to change the substance. And with its new structure the Leyland group will still be facing the issues which have faced it ever since the days of the original 1968 merger, which created the group under Lord Stokes as a company in the private sector.

Chief amongst these is the question whether, in a world of high oil prices and dominant, internationally integrated car companies like Ford and General Motors, a purely national car company relying so heavily on the British domestic market and exports can survive. Allied to this is the question whether and how, if the answer is no, a manufacturing operation the size of the Leyland mass car division can be scaled down without unacceptable social and industrial dislocation.

If the new management concludes, as its predecessors have done, that there is still a future for a mass car producer operating independently in this country, then the challenge shifts back to the problem of how increased productivity, reliability of delivery and profitability can be brought forth from the present mess. Under the new corporate structure, the performance of the mass car division will be much clearer for all to see. The question whether that exposure will improve performance remains entirely open.

THE EXTRADITION OF TERRORISTS

West German terrorists have been a European problem for some time. They were involved in the attack on the Opel meeting in Vienna. They attacked the West German embassy in Stockholm. They shot a Swiss border policeman. One of them had to be extradited from Greece. Twice recently they were involved in gun battles in Holland. And they left the body of Dr Schleyer, the kidnapped industrialist, in France, where they may also have been hiding. Now there is the problem of the extradition from France of Herr Croissant, the defence lawyer for several of the terrorists convicted in Germany. The problem has important political and legal aspects. Herr Croissant claims that he is a political refugee from West Germany and therefore not subject to the extradition agreement of 1951 which excludes political cases. The German authorities have supplied a 500-page dossier accusing him of ordinary criminal activity in aid of the terrorists. The court yesterday accepted a sufficient amount of this evidence to agree that there was a case for extradition. But Herr Croissant has attracted the support of a vociferous section of the French left which has accepted his "manifestly absurd argument that 'West Germany is, or is nearly, a fascist state and that he is a political resistance fighter. There

have been demonstrations around the court and about two hundred intellectuals signed a petition referring to the "persecution" of Herr Croissant. Many seem also to have accepted his equally flimsy accusation that the prisoners who died in Stammheim gaol were murdered and that he could suffer the same fate if extradited. There is at the moment no evidence to support this view and much to counter it.

Just why a number of Frenchmen should be so anxious to believe and propagate this picture of Germany is not clear. They may hope to tap the vein of anti-German nationalism that is always present in France, or it may suit their own political purposes to argue that a successful capitalist system such as West Germany's must inevitably be repressive. They are, however, making a rather curious and discouraging spectacle of themselves. Fortunately, M Mitterand, the Socialist leader, has not associated himself with the anti-German campaign, and the Government made an important gesture when it sent the Attorney General into court to support the case for extradition, but on the whole the amount of intellectual and political resistance has not been quite as firm as West German public opinion had a right to expect.

The result is a certain amount

of unhappiness in Germany. But the case has also brought to attention a wider problem which could give trouble in the future. The difference between a criminal and political offence is not, and probably cannot be, entirely clear. There is a long tradition in Europe, and especially in France, of granting special consideration to political prisoners and refugees, even if they have been involved in violence. The French extradition law of 1927 has a very vague phrase about crimes which have a "political character". This is a difficult matter for a court to decide. Anyone can claim a political motive for a crime, and the German terrorists do so, even though their political aims have become more and more obscure.

But the nature of the state against which they are operating must also be relevant, though this also stretches the normal competence of a court. If West Germany really were a fascist state there might be a different attitude towards acts of violence against it, and towards the extradition of people accused of committing such acts. This is why Herr Croissant has been so anxious in court to make his case against the West German state. It is also another reason why the decision has political as well as judicial significance. To extradite a German terrorist to Germany is a gesture of confidence in German democracy and justice.

CEMENTING THE PLURAL SOCIETY

Lord Scarman's passion for a United Kingdom Bill of Rights is well known, and he has used his considerable intellectual and persuasive skills to mount a variety of arguments in its support. He has now added a new one. His lecture to the Minority Rights Group yesterday concentrated on the issue of reverse discrimination, which, in the form of the Balke case, is causing such anguish in the United States at present.

Lord Scarman made two basic points. First, he stressed the necessity for ensuring that any legislation which, as he put it, loaded the law in favour of disadvantaged groups, be temporary. Ultimately, he argued, individual rights ought to prevail over group rights, and any law which derogated from that principle ought to remain in force for as little time as circumstances allowed. He cited the Race Relations Act, and particularly those sections which render lawful positive discrimination in favour of minority groups. No exception can be taken to his views on that point. He then went on to suggest that only by a Bill of

Rights could the rights of the individual be adequately protected against the excessive use of legislation designed to promote minority group rights. That proposition is open to question.

It is in everyone's interests that such legislation be kept to a minimum. Minority groups themselves would far prefer to be in an economic and social position which did not require the help of the law. The legislation is only there to ensure that those groups which suffer from various disadvantages are able to achieve equality of status, treatment and opportunity. Blacks would rather have that equality than the Race Relations Act. When the goal is achieved, the Act would of its own accord fall into desuetude.

Why, then, in that context, the necessity for a Bill of Rights? Lord Scarman suggests that such a Bill would enshrine the principle of equality for all before the law, hence of the primacy of the rights of the individual, whilst recognizing temporary and limited exceptions in favour of disadvantaged groups. It would put the

emphasis where it should be, on the rights of the members of the majority. The public would then properly appreciate that restrictions imposed on other people's freedoms in the name of favouring the disadvantaged were no more than expedients to be discarded "once the objective of genuine equality is achieved". But if that objective was, in fact, achieved, there would be no need for the Race Relations Act. Its abolition or non-use would not depend on there being a Bill of Rights saying that the measure was a temporary one.

There is some force in the argument that a Bill would state publicly principles which are now only implied. The very fact, however, that anti-discrimination laws exist is a clear statement that the general principle governing our society is, and must continue to be, equality for all its members. To spell out the principle may be of psychological help, but that alone does not warrant the introduction of a Bill of Rights. There are more persuasive arguments for that, most of which Lord Scarman has himself deployed in the past.

Selling eggs by weight

From Mrs S. P. Walker
Sir, Wouldn't it be far simpler to sell eggs by weight? Keeping a few hens, pullets and bantams I find out the "shop" price of, say, six standard eggs, and weigh them on the shop scales—then I make up that weight of my assortment and sell them at the shop price. It could be 5 very large eggs or up to 8 eggs if most are bantam or pullet. No one complains and most say they like odd sizes for differing uses.
Yours faithfully,
S. P. WALKER,
Bramall,
Marshall, North,
Cornwall.
October 28.

US withdrawal from ILO

From Mr S. B. Chambers
Sir, My attention has been drawn to Sir Robert L. M. Kirkwood's letter on the subject of the United States withdrawal from the ILO published in your issue of November 3. Sir Robert is, of course,

completely entitled to his "delight" at the further weakening of the ILO and at the United States decision to withdraw from that Organization (although it can be surmised that not even the Americans are "delighted" at what they have done). However, he might well be endorsing the sentiments of a group which consider himself in great sympathy. It is very unfortunate that Sir Robert is hitching his comments wagon to the fact that he came to an ILO conference as a Jamaican employers' representative in 1957 and, as far as I know, has not since then attended any sessions of the International Labour Conference. The employers' group of Jamaica would not have, in 1957, advocated the withdrawal of the United States from the ILO and has not since then, not up to the present time, wished for such a move. I am completely unaware, too, of any such withdrawal sentiments being expressed by either the past or the present Government of Jamaica or, indeed, by any of Jamaica's main trade unions. Jamaica has benefited greatly by

its membership of the ILO by having at present a very healthy social security programme, a very good vocational training institute and by having had well organized management development and trade union education programmes. The island has benefited very greatly, too, by its close association with and help from the United States. There can be no reason at all for wishing to see the ILO and the United States parting company; the hope is that, to the mutual benefit of both parties, there will be a resumed membership before long.

On a personal note, I must say that I was very shocked at the light-hearted irresponsibility of Sir Robert's letter.
Yours faithfully,
S. B. CHAMBERS,
President, Jamaica Employers' Federation, Deputy Member of the Government Body of the International Labour Office,
2A Rushden Road,
Kingston,
Jamaica.
November 10.

Settling firemen's pay and conditions

From Mr W. A. Wiseman
Sir, The way in which firemen's pay and conditions of service have been in the past and are now being settled leaves a great deal to be desired. An initial point is that no clear distinction is being made between an average industrial working week and the fireman's 48-hour working week. The fireman's 48 hours is 48 hours on duty, in many brigades, particularly in the Shire Counties, this means that for instance on a night shift, a fireman may have a virtually unbroken night's sleep. Whenever the inconvenience of being on duty for 48 hours may be, it bears no resemblance to a normal 40-hour working week.

The pay and conditions of firemen are settled annually by the Fire Service National Joint Council. They are not normally settled by the Government, yet in attempting to prevent the current firemen's strike, the Government, with a best of both worlds, has only to the local authorities who, in the end, are the firemen's employers, gave way, much to the Fire Brigades Union's surprise, on the 48-hour week with an unconditional offer to reduce it to 42 hours. The effect of this is that in due course 5,000 more public sector employees will be needed, as the Government's offer of a 42-hour week would be reduced. This is an example of how efficiency in the public sector is given away for short-term political advantage.

The firemen had accepted the 42-hour week and called off their strike, it would have meant that Mr Rees could say that the Government had not breached the 10 per cent rule, and yet built in would have been an inevitable further inflationary 12½ per cent increase.

There are in effect three parties to the firemen's dispute, the Government, local authorities and the firemen. The Government should be speaking with one voice and they are not. There are other difficulties in the present machinery. The majority of firemen are not employed by the Shire Counties. In the Shire Counties, until very recently an efficient form of fire cover was provided by full-time firemen offering their services in their own spare time to help out the brigades. The Fire Brigades Union persuaded the NJC to remove this option. In effect, firemen may now do most things in their spare time but make use of their skills so expensively acquired. The NJC has been a disaster for many men in our country, as it reduced their earnings.

Everyone who has had anything to do with the Fire Brigades Union knows that the men are devoted to duty and to whom the community owes a great deal. They may well have a good case for a rise along with the police, the miners and all the others, but this does not mean that they should be treated as a separate category of men in our country, as it reduced their earnings. The NJC has been a disaster for many men in our country, as it reduced their earnings.

W. A. WISEMAN,
The Mill House,
Bury,
Maidenhead.
November 15.

From Mr K. R. Wing
Sir, Whilst reluctantly acknowledging the firemen's right to strike there can be no justification for their refusal to allow their equipment to be used by the temporary firemen. Do they own this equipment? Does the Fire Secretary recognise the fact that

only the firemen have right of access to fire engines and breathing apparatus? More importantly, does he think it morally right that the Queen's troops be obliged to enter burning buildings with no better protection than damp rags held to their mouths?

It is ludicrous that while troops are having to undergo such hardships the equipment which would help them lies unused in fire stations.

Let us hope that while they continue to make the firemen wait decently towards the troops and allow them the use of the fire fighting appliances.

Yours faithfully,
K. R. WING,
United Oxford and Cambridge University Club,
71 Pall Mall, SW1.
November 15.

From Mr Ian McMorran
Sir, Am I the only one to be surprised at the apparent readiness of the public to accept the Government's argument that it cannot recognize the claims of any group as constituting a special case because to do so would open the floodgates to a torrent of "special cases"? I consider that to refuse to decide which cases are special in the present very special situation is to shift one of the responsibilities of Government. (Didn't someone say "Gouverneur c'est choisir"?)

The Government should have the courage to make a decision. Even if it delays the return to free collective bargaining—which will not improve the lot of very many special cases—let us at least show where our sympathies lie by sticking out a limited number of "special cases" and according them a generous settlement. The list need not be a long one. Indeed, the shorter the better, but mine surely must include hospital staff, policemen and firemen.

Of course we all feel that we need to be paid more, but although my own profession has been very shabby treated by this Government, I should be more grateful than jealous if I thought that a realistic economic policy had not led the Cabinet to abandon the vision of social justice. I would be the first to place a few political principles in the run up to the election might even prove politically expedient.

Yours faithfully,
IAN MCMORRAN,
14 Eynham Road,
Bury,
Oxford.
November 15.

From Mrs Valerie A. Elliston
Sir, There is one important aspect of the firemen's strike which seems to have escaped notice but which is brought home quite vividly by the Home Office announcement currently appearing in the press. It appears that "while normal fire services are unavailable, it is important for everyone to take sensible fire precautions, and know what to do if fire breaks out." This follows a list of commonsense hints. It is scandalous that, when normal fire services are available, the public refuse to take those "sensible fire precautions," thus causing fires and accidents which could be avoided by the use of common sense. The general attitude seems to be, "I don't need to take precautions; the fire brigade will come." How many firemen suffer injury or death as a result of this kind of non-thinking? Small wonder that they are driven to strike.

Yours faithfully,
VALERIE A. ELLISTON,
11 Ireton Road,
Coventry.
November 14.

Church investment policy

From the First Church Estates Commissioner
Sir, Mr Bulmer-Thomas claimed in the article which you published on November 15 that the Church Commissioners had missed the bus. Before one boards a bus it is wise to consider its destination and, indeed, how far, once one has caught it, it will move forward at all.

The suggestion made is that the Commissioners should have invested the whole of their Stock Exchange portfolio in Government securities by implication wholly in 7½ per cent Treasury Stock. The fact is that when that stock yielded 15 per cent.

Yours financially discerning readers will have had no difficulty in recognizing the practical problems of switching hundreds of millions of pounds in this way. Of course, a switch from equities into high-yielding fixed interest stocks immediately increases the income, though not on the scale suggested by Mr Bulmer-Thomas who has distorted his arithmetic facts by failing to compare like with like. The increase in income would have been around £15 million, not £22 million.

But some may still ask why the Commissioners did not take this opportunity to increase their income and thus the pay and pensions of the clergy by an overall figure of £15 million. After all, if concerned about inflation and

whilst conforming to Government pay policy, the Commissioners could have distributed only part of the increased income and reinvested the rest.

Apart from the fact that the prudent investor does not put all his eggs in one basket, the fact is that equities have, almost invariably, out-performed fixed interest. At the time gifts were yielding around 7 per cent. Over the two years the growth of income achieved by the Commissioners from their equity portfolio has averaged over 13 per cent per annum despite dividend restraint. Growth at an average of even 10 per cent per annum compound doubles the income and possibly doubles capital value every seven years—but on Mr Bulmer-Thomas's main assumption he would prefer doubling overnight and then fixed for over 38 years! Moreover, despite the capital gain on redemption of the Government Stock (7½ per cent Treasury Stock), if interest rates were then lower than 7½ per cent, there would be an actual fall in income on reinvestment.

I do not believe many clergy would have been pleased to find themselves "at a stroke"—in a bus which lurched forward and was then likely to remain stationary for the rest of half a century.

Yours faithfully,
RONALD HARRIS,
Church Commissioners,
1 Millbank SW1.
November 16.

Isolating South Africa

From Dr Ralph Horwitz
Sir, In his article "One way to isolate the whites in South Africa" (November 14), the Reverend Paul Oestreicher advances the now familiar arguments for economic sanctions. Such arguments completely ignore the economic history of South Africa for the past hundred years but, worse, they show a total misunderstanding of the nature of capital investment and "profits" in the interconnections of the economic variables.

Given the military and political power of white South Africa, the only possible instrument for expelling apartheid and its racism is the immediate intensification of foreign investment. Nothing else can make white South Africa so totally de-

pendent on non-white South Africans that within a relatively short period, the power of the non-whites to compel the abandonment of apartheid would be irresistible.

That foreign investment increases the power of the non-whites is by any economic model, market or Marxist, theoretically irrefutable and historically manifest. By all means attract white South Africans so that they may experience a fraction of the humiliations and indignities imposed for generations on non-white South Africans. But ostracism is completely different from economic sanctions.

Yours faithfully,
RALPH HORWITZ,
London Regional Management Centre,
311 Regent Street, W1.
November 14.

Devising a fair EEC fisheries régime

From Mrs Elizabeth Young
Sir, Michael Hornsby's article—"British Fishing—An Industry heading for an EEC storm" (November 9) and your leading article—"Still the fishermen's friends" (November 10) touching on the EEC cod debate in Norwegian waters—forcibly remind us how far there is to go to reach a usable Common Fisheries Regime.

The Commission's most recent proposals are still lubbly and theoretical, founded as they are on quite a hazy picture of the minutely detailed national quotas. On the other hand the UK's exclusive belt proposals probably do not accord with the Treaty of Rome and, even if acceptable to the Council of Ministers, would be unacceptable to the legal system. The arrival on the scene of Spain—which has one of the world's largest fishing fleets—makes it all the more urgent for the Community to reach a sensible agreement.

Can there in fact be a Common Fisheries Regime which is at once fair, and in accordance with the Treaty of Rome and capable of the kind of speedy regulation required for proper management? Surely, but Brussels would have to abandon national quotas: Britain will probably have to abandon belts; and all concerned would have to recall that fisheries are only one of many activities going on in our seas, all of which have to coexist if we are to make the most of any of them. Waste disposal, pollution control (including regulation of offshore, sand and gravel) extraction, reclamation of coastal wetlands, artificial island construction, disposal of shipping casualties, pipeline routing, are among the activities that particularly impinge on fishery management.

The Commission has now realized that enforcement is an essential element of fishery management. But to judge by its most recent proposals, it has not still realized how important convenience of enforcement may be, given that at sea it has to be done by consulars rather than by police. The list of responsibilities (the list above suggests some of them). Nor indeed does it seem to have any wider sense of its own responsibilities for Sea-Use Planning—for l'Aménagement des Mers.

Mapping buried history

From Major-General R. C. A. Edge
Sir, As a former Director General, I am disturbed by the changes in the archaeological activities of the Ordnance Survey which, it seems, are to be made without prior consultation with the profession. These activities are as old as the Department itself, which for almost 200 years has recorded antiquities, whether visible or obliterated, and shown them on its maps. But, in spite of the enthusiasm of individuals, the lack of professional standards has always been a serious drawback. Some of them bowdlerized, some of them were not even taken into account. It was to remedy this that in 1930 Sir Charles Close, then Director General, persuaded the Government to appoint an Archaeological Officer, Mr G. S. Crawford. A brilliant field archaeologist, he held the post for over 20 years, making an immense contribution to archaeological cartography and creating the periodical "Antiquaries Notes". His function was to ensure that the Ordnance Survey received the best information available and correctly interpreted it. Since then these activities have been guided by a succession of archaeological officers and assistants of comparable professional stature, including notably C. W. Phillips, Professor W. F. Grimes and Professor A. L. F. Rye. An Archaeological Division has been developed which is renowned for the excellence of its work and is the envy of other countries, providing an indispensable service for archaeologists, historians and amateur, in Britain and elsewhere.

Now, evidently, this uniquely valuable organization is to be dismantled or, at least, so changed that its essential degradation seems inevitable. The saddest feature is the complacent acceptance of the demise of the former strong and professionally well qualified central direction, which ensured high standards by expert training and supervision of the non-professional staff. It may be argued that the mapping of the country is almost complete and that the former expenditure on archaeology is no longer justified; but apart from the fact that the large scale programme will not be finished for some years, no national survey, however small, or the pressure is ever complete. Revision is always necessary (as witness the successive editions of the Map of Roman Britain) and an organization smaller, perhaps, but essentially similar, will be needed. I hope that, in the end, wiser counsels may prevail.

Yours faithfully,
R. C. A. EDGE,
Greenway House,
North Curry,
Torbarn,
Somerset.
November 12.

Representative juries

From Miss A. S. Coode
Sir, Having recently completed jury service I would disagree with Mr A. B. Horley's view (November 7) that it is idle to pretend that any jury will ever represent the community at random.

Over 300 juries were called at the same time as myself. In the course of the next 10 days there were many opportunities of meeting. Whilst jurors and I talked to other secretaries, like myself, hotel receptionists, someone from the BBC, students, teachers, financiers, housewives, a self-employed lorry driver, an art historian, a senior British Rail official and many others. Whilst we all came from London there were people drawn from most boroughs and not only the central ones. The Jury Balliff had some difficulty with the pronunciation of our surnames, which indicated the broad, worldwide, random mix we had all come from once.

I hope this may reassure Mr Horley. I know I was not only assured but impressed by the way justice was seen to be done.
Yours sincerely,
ANGELA COODE,
Flat B,
15 Queen's Gardens, W2.
November 7.

Eating motorway food

From Dr J. Billam
Sir, Sir Charles Forte (November 12) perhaps overlooks the most important point. For a foreigner to discover that apparently 79 per cent of all actually like motorway restaurants, probably does more harm to our tourist trade than anything Eggo Ronay may have said.
Yours faithfully,
J. BILLAM,
6 Melplash Avenue,
Salford,
West Midlands.
November 14.

Law Report November 16 1977

Apology for Crossman Diaries statement

Thompson v Jonathan Cape Ltd and Another

Before Mr Justice Bristow

Miss Jean Thompson, a senior statistician in the Registrar General's Office, received an apology over a passage in the recently published third volume of the *Crossman Diaries*, which referred to "a fascist nest" in the office. Miss Thompson had sued the defendants, Jonathan Cape Ltd and Hamish Hamilton Ltd, the joint publishers for libel.

Mr Peter Boushier for Miss Thompson; Mr Tom Shields for the publishers.

Mr Boushier said that Miss Thompson was a senior statistician and the only woman of equivalent rank in the office. She was responsible directly to the Registrar General for making extrapolations from population statistics.

In volume III of the *Crossman Diaries*, the late Mr Richard Crossman stated that in 1969 he "had been told that there was a fascist nest in the Registrar General's Office" and that while at first he did not believe the allegation he later became convinced, after sitting for an hour with the staff, "that there was a real ideological pattern to the behaviour of this office". Mr Crossman referred to a lady in that office in terms which clearly identified Miss Thompson as an individual determined to provide statistics falsified by reason of political bias regarding the coloured population of Britain.

Those allegations were the gravest possible reflection upon her integrity as a statistician and as a public servant charged with the responsibility of advising ministers and informing the public in a most important field. There was not a word of truth in those allegations, either in relation to her or to the staff for whom she was responsible.

Miss Thompson was a demographer of international repute and of the highest integrity. She was certainly not a fascist, and indeed she was not a member of any political party. Her moderate political views were known only to herself and her work had never been influenced by any political or other personal views.

The *Crossman Diaries* might become works of reference for a very considerable time as a source of contemporary history. Miss Thompson was accordingly concerned that the record should be put straight and for that reason began the present proceedings. She had not been concerned to obtain compensation and since the defendants were willing to apologise and to withdraw the allegations made against her, she was content not to proceed with the action.

Mr Shields said that the defendants wished to apologise for any distress caused to Miss Thompson by references which had been taken to suggest that her work was coloured by any political or other bias. The defendants also wished to make it clear that any such suggestions were now withdrawn as being entirely misconceived. They had agreed to pay Miss Thompson's legal costs.

Solicitors: Payne, Hicks, Beach & Co; Palmer & Co.

Brassington and Others v Cauldon Wholesale Ltd

Before Mr Justice Bristow, Mr L. D. Cowan and Mrs D. Lancaster

[Judgment delivered Nov 11]

Sections 53, 54 and 56 of the Employment Protection Act 1975, which are concerned with the redress an employee has for breach of his "right not to have action (short of dismissal) taken against him as an individual by his employer for the purpose of—(a) preventing . . . him from being . . . a member of an independent trade union . . ."

were considered for the first time by the Employment Appeal Tribunal. The basis of a discretionary monetary award made to the employee is compensation for him, not a fine on the employer.

The Appeal Tribunal allowed an appeal by Mr David Brassington and two other employees of Cauldon Wholesale Ltd, wholesale drapers, of Shelton, Staffordshire, from a Shrewsbury industrial tribunal which granted them a declaration that their right under section 53 of the Act had been infringed, and ordered the company to pay them normal wages in respect of the day they attended the tribunal hearing but awarded no compensation.

Mr Eldred Tabachnik for the employees. The company did not appear and was not represented. MR JUSTICE BRISTOW said that in May 1976, the company gave its workforce a rise of 16 a week thinking it was obliged to do so by law. On discovering that there was no such legal obligation it substituted a smaller increase. In September, 1976, the three employees, with five others, joined the Transport and General

Workers' Union. A union official asked the company for recognition and negotiating rights. The company wanted nothing to do with the union, which referred the recognition issue to the Advisory, Conciliation, and Arbitration Service. ACAS decided to hold a ballot on the issue; questionnaires were distributed and, on March 3, 1977, collected, but the result was not yet known.

In February the three employees issued complaints, pursuant to section 54 that their right not to have any action short of dismissal taken against them as individuals by the company for the purpose of preventing or deterring them from being members of an independent trade union, conferred by section 53(1), had been infringed. Before the industrial tribunal they said that since joining a union their employer had been putting pressure on them, and that if the company was required to recognize the union it would close the business, dismiss the workforce and restart under a different corporate name.

The tribunal had to decide two important questions of law. Did making a threat amount to action short of dismissal on the true interpretation of section 53? If so, how was compensation to be assessed under section 56(1)? It concluded that "action" included threats and that the appropriate compensation in the present case was one day's pay and out-of-pocket expenses.

There was no cross-appeal by the company against findings that a threat amounted to action, but there could be a formidable argument, which was not raised before the tribunal, that the decision might be wrong. The point would

have to be left for the future. Such an unsatisfactory situation would not have arisen if the company had taken legal advice at either level.

The object of Parliament in conferring upon employees the section 53 right was clearly to discourage employers from unfairly trying to prevent union activity in their establishments. To effect that object, some sanction was necessary. Parliament could have chosen an expressly penal sanction, made infringement of the right an offence, and provided for penalties to be imposed by the ordinary criminal courts. But bringing the criminal law into the industrial field was widely thought to be unwise; Parliament had not done so. It could have provided what would have been a fine but wrapped up in a non-penal formula and imposed by industrial tribunals. An example was section 70. For an infringement of an employee's right to a proper statement in writing of the reasons for dismissal a tribunal must award that the employer pay the employee a sum equal to two weeks' pay, and it had a discretion to make a declaration as to what it found the employer's reasons really were.

Where, however, the tribunal found that a section 53 right had been infringed it must, by section 54(3), make a declaration to that effect, and additionally it had a discretion to award compensation to be paid by the employer to the employee in respect of the action complained of, calculated in accordance with section 56. Such compensation for the employee, not a fine on the employer, however tactically wrapped up, was the basis of the discretionary monetary award.

Compensation was for injury, whether to one's pocket or otherwise, sustained as the result of the infringement of a right. Did anything in section 54 or section 56 lead to the conclusion that Parliament intended the discretionary award of compensation to include anything other than compensation for the injury sustained? Was there anything empowering a tribunal in addition to impose a "quasi-fine" on the employer as in section 70?

Mr Tabachnik submitted that once the right had been infringed an industrial tribunal could, with nothing more, award monetary compensation. There was no need to show an injury, but if that were done compensation could be awarded.

The tribunal apparently concluded that, since the infringement was only a threat, it was not just and equitable to grant compensation without actual pecuniary loss. But the three employees would get their travelling expenses and subsistence, and the employers should pay them their wages in respect of the day spent at the tribunal. Subject to that, the tribunal did not impose any penalty on the employers.

It looked as if the tribunal had taken the view that it had a discretion to impose a quasi-fine on the employer if it thought it just and equitable, and otherwise to award compensation only in respect of pecuniary loss. If that was its view it was wrong.

Compensation had to be of such amount as the tribunal considered just and equitable in all the circumstances, having regard to the infringement of the section 53 right by the employer's action, and of any loss attributable to it.

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Employment Appeal Tribunal

Compensation for breach of right to belong to a trade union

The loss was to include any expense reasonably incurred in consequence of the employer's action and any benefit that might reasonably have been expected but for it.

Counsel rightly said that "loss" was apt to mean what one suffered in one's pocket. The tribunal was entitled to award compensation for the monetary loss the employers had incurred in going to the tribunal by way of expenses but not to order the company to pay them a day's wages. That would not be a loss attributable to the employer's action and would amount to a quasi-fine.

Compensation meant compensation of the injured party for injury, not punishment for the person committing the injury. Injury was far wider than suffering in one's pocket; and apart from the amount to compensate for that, the compensation of such amount as the tribunal considered just and equitable was compensation for injury not suffered in one's pocket caused to the employees by the employer's action infringing section 53, and sections 54 and 56 empowered the award of such compensation. Such action might be very easily shown

to have caused injury to the individual other than injury to his pocket. The stress engendered by such a situation might easily be a source of mental distress, which might be awarded if a deep and sincere wish to join a union, with all the benefits not help and advice which that might entail, was frustrated. If an employer's action against an employee resulted in a union failing in respect of a recognition issue under section 11 that might be an injury which warranted compensation. Parliament had not categorized the injuries other than those to the pocket for which compensation might be awarded. But the employee who claimed compensation must first satisfy the industrial tribunal that his right had been infringed—if he showed that and no more a mandatory declaration was his remedy—and he must then show that his right had been infringed by the employer's action which infringed his right before the discretionary remedy of an award of compensation was available.

The appeal would be allowed and the case sent back for rehearing before a differently constituted tribunal.

Solicitors: Pardollan & Brewer.

Rights to residence make charitable trust invalid

In re Martin, deceased

Before Mr Justice Walton

[Judgment delivered Nov 10]

A trust to create a home for old people, with a right for either of the testator's daughters to reside there, was held not to be a valid charitable trust.

Mr John Bradburn for the executors; Mr T. L. G. Cullen for the testator's family; Mr John Mummery for the Attorney-General.

HIS LORDSHIP said that Mr Martin made his will in March, 1956, and died in August, 1970. The will directed the executors to create a trust of residue, and pay therefrom free of all taxes and expenses annuities of £20 a week to his widow until her death, and of £5 a week to each of his two daughters during their widowed life, rising after her death to £10 a week during their lives. Clause 5 directed that any residue remaining after those payments should be used to create a home for old people and that "either or both of my daughters shall have first right of residence in the home should they agree to its creation before their deaths. This condition shall not alter the payments to be made in paragraph 4."

It was not and could not be disputed, if only because of *In re Pannell's Will Trusts* (1969) 1 WLR 1595, that to found a home for old people was a good and valid charitable trust. But Mr Cullen said the trust was not charitable by reason of the rights reserved to the two daughters; Mr Mummery said that the residuary did not affect its charitable nature.

Mr Mummery had first contended that the trust was to create a home for "old people" and that the two daughters were some species of old people, and that what was provided was a preferential right of residence. Mr Cullen said that the daughters were people who, whether old or not, were given an absolute right to reside in the home. Mr Mummery's later submission was that the provision for the daughters that could be treated as a *pro tanto* divesting provision. His Lordship could not accept that argument; all that the words meant was that the daughters because objects, and preferred objects, of the trust.

There was no need for the daughters to be old at all; the only condition for them to have a preferential right was for them to agree to the creation of the home. Assuming that Mr Mummery was right, that the daughters were a sub-species of the primary class of "old people," the question arose whether an unqualifiedly charitable gift to found a home for old people but with nominated private individuals having not a "preferential" but an "absolute" right of residence was a charity. Mr Mummery placed great reliance upon *In re Koozemans' Will Trusts* (1971) Ch 251, where it was held that

various articles, including a sheath knife, were carried off as being per se made, adapted, or carried for the purpose of causing injury. A note referred to *Woodward v Koozemans* (1973) 1 WLR 1255 in which a sheath knife was held to be an offensive weapon. The judge, taking the view that a sheath knife was per se made for causing personal injury, ruled that it was an offensive weapon.

It was not for the judge to decide whether an object was an offensive weapon, but for the jury, though the judge might give his own view after warning to the jury. A sheath knife did not describe the nature of the weapon in question. There was only a sheath and it was for the jury to decide its nature. The judge erred in his view that the conviction must be upheld.

But his Lordship did not think, when asking "would a reasonable man at the testator's death think that the gift was ever going to be practicable," that he could reasonably exclude from consideration the fact of inflation. His Lordship drew comfort from *In re Lushington* (1939) Ch 467 and said that it would be totally unreasonable not to take inflation into consideration.

Mr Mummery suggested that mortgages would have been available, and that local authorities could advance up to 100 per cent, the mortgage interest being covered by charges to residents, so that lack of money was not a hindrance. In his Lordship's view, however, that was not the sort of use the testator had in mind for the residue; what he contemplated was a roof over old people's heads.

Solicitors: Collier, Bristow & Co for Lampson, Bristow & Bristow, Southampton; White & Leonard; Treasury Solicitor.

Question for the jury

Regina v Williamson

Whether an object is an offensive weapon per se is not for the judge to decide but a question of fact for the jury. The Court of Appeal said when allowing an appeal by Alan Williamson, of Macclesfield, against his conviction at Knutsford Crown Court (Judge Sayers Llewellyn) for having an offensive weapon, contrary to section 1(1) of the Prevention of Crime Act, 1953.

Section 1(4) defines "offensive weapon" as "any article made or adapted for use for causing injury to the person, or intended by the person having it with him for such use by him."

LORD JUSTICE GEOFFREY LANE, sitting with Mr Justice Milmo and Mr Justice Watkins, said that the prosecution relied on Smith and Hogan's Criminal Law (3rd ed., p 318) where

various articles, including a sheath knife, were carried off as being per se made, adapted, or carried for the purpose of causing injury. A note referred to *Woodward v Koozemans* (1973) 1 WLR 1255 in which a sheath knife was held to be an offensive weapon. The judge, taking the view that a sheath knife was per se made for causing personal injury, ruled that it was an offensive weapon.

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Solicitors' failure

Regina v Ratcliffe

The Court of Appeal said that a solicitor's failure to give the necessary information for coming to a conclusion about the appropriateness of the sentence passed on a defendant, for whom the solicitor had been instructed on legal aid, was a matter to be taken into account in taxing the solicitor's costs.

The court allowed in part an appeal by Eric Anthony Ratcliffe, aged 34, against sentence for driving a motor vehicle with a blood alcohol concentration above the prescribed limit, contrary to section 6(1) of the Road Traffic Act, 1972. The defendant's appeal against conviction was dismissed.

LORD JUSTICE GEOFFREY LANE said that the single judge, when granting legal aid, had said he had specifically allowed a solicitor to be instructed "to ensure the full court gains the truth on means." That was a very far-fetched direction. A solicitor was accordingly instructed, but he was not present in court.

Counsel said that he dispensed with the solicitor's attendance and

took it upon himself to do so. That was probably sensible, but what the solicitor had not done was to find out one tenth of the information necessary for the court to come to a proper conclusion. There was only a statement about the defendant's Army medical pension of £16.50, certain of his outgoings, his family commitments and the way he supported his income by casual earnings of about £10 a week.

There was no whisper of what his capital assets were, or how he could afford to run a Mercedes-Benz, however old it might be. Quite plainly, there was an area unparagonably left unexplored. That was a matter that, might have been taken into account by the court in sentencing the defendant, and was accordingly a failure of the solicitor's costs.

In the circumstances, the court could only make a guess about the defendant's means. The fine of £75 was possibly on the high side and would be reduced to £50 on order of the defendant's solicitor. £50 towards the prosecution was not stand, as would the defendant's fine and costs to be paid if the judge so ordered.

It's got to be Gordon's

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

Richard Dropper
skipper'smanship

British Leyland decentralized into four separate companies

By Clifford Webb

Mr. Michael Edwards, the former Chrysler Group chief who was appointed chief executive of British Leyland three weeks ago, yesterday announced a major restructuring of the company, aimed at further decentralizing the struggling state-owned motor group.

He also hinted at more changes to come. There are few big surprises in the new set-up, bearing in mind Mr. Edwards' known preference for independent, profit accountable subsidiaries.

The four existing business groups—Leyland Cars, Leyland Truck & Bus, Leyland International and Leyland Special Products—are becoming registered limited liability companies under their existing managing directors.

As such they will have to return properly documented annual accounts, a move which will effectively end the "masking" of individual performance in corporate returns.

Mr. Edwards himself will be chairman of all but Special Products. There the chair goes to Mr. Alex Park, British Leyland's former chief executive and now an executive vice-chairman.

The present 13-strong main board disappears to be replaced by a smaller seven-member board. The present heads of the four operating companies lose their seats and only two of the five outside board members are retained—Sir Robert Clark, chief executive of Hill Samuel and Mr. Ian MacGregor, chairman of Lehman International Incorporated.

Mr. Alton Copestake, former director of McKinnon & Co., Mr. John Carding, chief executive of the Laird Group and Lord Greenhill of Harrow, the former head of the Diplomatic Service, all lose their seats. Lord Greenhill will act in an advisory

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capacity to the board and serve as a non-executive director of Leyland International where his overseas connections can be put to good use.

The new subsidiary boards are all composed of existing local executives with the addition in each case of Mr. Park, Leyland's former chief executive. Apart from these two, the board members are: Leyland Cars with headquarters at Coventry—Mr. Michael Edwards (chairman), Mr. Derek Whitaker (managing director), Mr. David Andrews, Mr. Colin Daniel, Mr. Spencer King and Mr. Geoffrey Whelan; Leyland Truck & Bus with headquarters at Leyland—Mr. Edwards (chairman), Mr. Desmond Ritchie (managing director), Mr. Peter McGrath, Mr. Harold Musgrove, Mr. Allen Russell, Mr. Frank Saunders, Mr. Jack Smart, Mr. Marcus Smith and Mr. Neil Sullivan.

Leyland Special Products with headquarters at Milton—Mr. Edwards (chairman), Mr. Alex Park (chairman), Mr. Brian Hoare, Mr. Bill Sneedon and Mr. Christopher Hall. Leyland International with headquarters at Solihull—Mr. Edwards (chairman), Mr. David Andrews (managing director), Mr. Dennis Benson, Mr. Bert Lawrence, Mr. Jack Reardon, and Mr. Graham Whitehead.

A secretary is to be appointed. Also, Mr. Edwards is creating an advisory board of three powerful corporate panels or committees similar to those operated so successfully in recent years by Ford of Europe. He will chair the advisory board and two of the panels himself.

The advisory board comprises the heads of the four operating companies with a leavening of corporate staff. It will provide a forum at which all overall problems and opportunities can be debated and action programmes put forward.

A strategy panel will determine how best to implement the decisions and policies of the main board. Its membership has still to be announced. A management resources panel will decide on appointments, career development, utilization and succession of key executives. Its membership, also, has still to be announced.

Mr. Park, as an executive vice-chairman, will become responsible for central operations including finance, corporate planning, legal services and audit. Mr. John McKay, Mr. Edwards' former public relations chief at Chrysler, joins British Leyland as communications adviser to the chairman.

Yesterday's announcement also confirmed reports that Mr. Edwards will run the corporation from Nuffield House in Piccadilly and will close the present headquarters block in Marylebone Road. A number of corporate staff will move to the new headquarters in the next few weeks. Others will be offered posts in the operating companies.

The spectre of redundancies is raised by the statement that the remainder will continue "for the time being" in Marylebone Road.

However, the Government does promise MPs that they will be kept fully informed about decisions to make available further sums of public aid to Leyland.

News of the Edwards reorganization was broken to top executives yesterday after several weeks of speculation about the future of the Leyland headquarters in Marylebone and its occupants. It was a well-planned exercise firmly establishing the authority of the new chairman and his associates.

Mr. John McKay, described as communications adviser and brought to Leyland from Chrysler where Mr. Edwards made his acquaintance, is to be redeployed to the Leyland headquarters in Marylebone Road, taken over in 1974 on a 21-year lease, will be shut down by next June and 300 of the 550 headquarters staff who work for the international business will be redeployed to the Leyland headquarters in Piccadilly.

It is believed that the new Nuffield House headquarters will house a staff of between 50 and 100. A small central services unit, called Leyland Management Services, is to operate from separate premises in London.

Mr. Edwards' next task is to be rewriting the Leyland corporate plan by early next year, for scrutiny by the NBS which needs to make recommendations to Mr. Varley on financing. In the meantime, the existing time-table for tranches of aid is disrupted.

The Treasury minute explains that it would not be practicable in Leyland's case for the Government to insist on the achievement of fully competitive standards of performance throughout the motor group before further public funds were released.

subsidies are not expected to be completed until January. Yesterday, Mr. Murphy said: "We very much welcome Mr. Edwards' plans and these have been endorsed unanimously by the board."

During the day, the Treasury published a minute on a recent Public Accounts Committee report dealing with the NBS. This makes it clear that the Treasury and the Department of Industry hope to establish financial duties in respect of the NBS's investment in British Leyland when it receives from the NBS its corporate plan.

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Signs point to increase in wages bill well above government limit

By David Blake

Average earnings increased by only 0.3 per cent in September, but it is now clear that the increase in the total wages bill is likely to be significantly higher than the 10 per cent target which the Government has set for the present wages round.

Four out of five workers who would have been expected to settle in the period since August 1, when the new pay round began, have hung back from any agreement notified to the Department of Employment.

Of those who have settled—31 per cent of the total workforce—85 per cent have done so within the government guidelines, the Department says.

This figure is much lower than the 56 per cent quoted last week by Mr. Healey on the basis of information provided by the Confederation of British Industry.

The Department has received no notification of any major group settling for significantly below the 10 per cent figure, even though the Chancellor has made it clear that, for earnings to work out at around 10 per cent higher over the bargaining year, settlements would have to average around 5 to 6 per cent.

This would require some settlements to be even lower.

The Employment Department's figures also greatly underestimate the extent to which the new pay round will be likely to lead to sharp increases in earnings later in the year as new settlements come through.

This will be reinforced by the backlog of pay settlements covering workers who delayed taking a phase two deal in the hope of getting something more than the 24-week maxi-

AVERAGE EARNINGS

The following are the index numbers for average earnings of all employees in all industries and services covered by the monthly earnings inquiry released by the Department of Employment:

	Old series of average earnings (Jan 1970 = 100)	New series of average earnings (Jan 1976 = 100)	Change in earnings 3 months to annualised rate
1976			
Sept	266.1	108.3	12.0
Oct	269.0	108.5	8.0
Nov	272.2	110.6	7.7
Dec	277.1	111.3	17.6
1977			
Jan	278.1	110.9	14.2
Feb	278.7	111.0	9.9
March	283.9	111.3	10.0
April	283.1	112.1	7.4
May	286.3	114.9	11.4
June	286.2	115.4	4.2
July	285.5	116.2	6.1
Aug	285.7	115.7	7.2
Sept	288.5	116.5	4.7

* seasonally adjusted
† not seasonally adjusted
‡ provisional

million people settling since August instead of the nearly three million who settled in the equivalent period last year.

This is caused by tough negotiations, particularly between local authorities and their manual employees.

There is, however, also a significant element of delay on the workers' side, which is likely to lead to sharp increases in earnings later in the year as new settlements come through.

This will be reinforced by the backlog of pay settlements covering workers who delayed taking a phase two deal in the hope of getting something more than the 24-week maxi-

imum allowed under that phase of incomes policy. There are signs that some of these workers, at least, may have been able to negotiate extra pay rises on "productivity" grounds.

In spite of all the delay in settlements, the percentage increase in average earnings was higher in the 12 months to September than in the 12 months to August, the first time that the annual rate of increase has gone up since March.

On the old series of figures, which started in January, 1970, and which covers six million workers the increase is 8.8 per cent; the new series which has been introduced covering 10 million workers shows a 7.5 per cent rise.

There are clear signs with a Whitehall that concern is growing once again about the way in which the wage round is developing. The Government exerted all its efforts to prevent an explosion in pay in the weeks immediately succeeding the ending of phase two.

These efforts were successful; but several months of difficulty are expected, with some sharp increases likely and a growth of about 15 per cent for the year as a whole.

No indication as to whether this is likely to turn out to be correct can be gleaned from the figures for basic weekly wages rates published yesterday, which show a negligible rise in October. The wage rate index takes account only of nationally negotiated rates, and is distorted into material excess by the fact that no national settlement has been made for the engineering industry since February, 1976.

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Steel chief's refusal to set out options upsets MPs

By George Clark

Political Correspondent

In bitter exchanges with MPs of the Select Committee on Nationalized Industries about the crisis in the British steel industry, Sir Charles Villiers, chairman of the British Steel Corporation, yesterday refused to set out the options being discussed with the unions and the Government to avoid the continued heavy losses, now running at about £500m a year.

Mr. Edwin Wainwright, Labour MP for Dearne Valley, chairman of the subcommittee examining the steel industry's prospects, had accused Sir Charles of giving misleading information to the Select Committee in May, and had protested that the committee with Mr. Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, at some later date.

"But I would not be willing to give a one-sided view of negotiations which are now in full flood," he said. "If it were thought helpful to have a meeting with myself and Mr. Varley together I would be willing to play my part."

"But I am one of the parties to an agreement to try quietly to solve this huge problem. Honestly, the committee in the Tower of London—going to break that agreement."

This was obviously a reference to the fact that the Select Committee, if it got the approval of the Commons, could attempt to compel Sir Charles to give the information they want under threat of being accused of contempt of Parliament.

After nearly a two-hour session, the select committee adjourned for 10 minutes and then announced that they would go into private session. Sir Charles and his officials returned to the committee room. But he had said firmly, in advance, that he would not be able to say in private any more than he had done in public.

He was asked in open session to indicate the relative importance which BSC gives to the closure of plants, to improved management performance, and to a cutback in investment. One MP had suggested that there might be large-scale redundancies. Sir Charles said that he was not going to emphasize any option: it was a "mix" of all the options that was now being discussed.

"I appreciate your difficulty," he told the MPs. "I believe I can count on your understanding that I also have some difficulty in running the British Steel Corporation."

"My enormous difficulty, which I beg you to take on board, is that if the Government, the unions and the corporation cannot come to an agreement on what should be done, the whole prospect is infinitely dimmer. . . . A three-way merger or a tripartite agreement is very difficult to achieve and I am most anxious from the country's point of view to give hostages to day which may make this immensely difficult business more difficult."

Sir Charles thought some progress was being made towards an agreement and he hoped that Mr. Varley would be able to announce the terms before the Christmas recess.

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Directors responsibilities still to be spelt out

By Maurice Corina and Edward Towson

Fundamental revision of the articles of association of British Leyland is expected to follow yesterday's announcement.

Bankers and creditors are also likely to seek early clarification of the responsibilities of directors of the new companies. Minority shareholders holding about 5 per cent of British Leyland's equity against the National Enterprise Board's 85 per cent holding will also need to be consulted.

Although Mr. Edwards intends to turn the four new subsidiaries into decentralized profit centres, his legal advisers are still faced with the thorny question of directors' duties under company law and their relationship to creditors.

The accounts provided for the NEB, which will fund the present Leyland company, formed 21 years ago, make it clear that there is no government guarantee to creditors of any NEB subsidiary unless the Government has undertaken a specific commitment in relation to particular debts.

The position is that the NEB's own relationship to Leyland creditors must have regard to the practice of companies in the private sector. The NEB, however, has power to guarantee obligations incurred by Leyland.

The accounts of the NEB were qualified by its auditors earlier this year by a note that



Mr. Leslie Murphy, NEB chairman: 'We welcome the plans and these have been endorsed unanimously by the board'

the accounts had been prepared on the normal going concern basis which assumed British Leyland would continue to obtain finance under the long-term Ryder plan. The Ryder plan would seem to be doomed and the new chairman will clearly be putting forward revised ideas for future financing and a new corporate strategy document.

MPs will be seeking clarification about the company's capital needs and investment strategy. Mr. Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, has not intervened in the initial shake-up by Mr. Edwards leaving approval to the NEB, the Government's agent.

Mr. Leslie Murphy, chairman of the NEB, was consulted by Mr. Edwards, himself a former NEB member, and his reorganization received the unanimous approval of the board, even though the legal details and financial structures of the new

subsidies are not expected to be completed until January. Yesterday, Mr. Murphy said: "We very much welcome Mr. Edwards' plans and these have been endorsed unanimously by the board."

During the day, the Treasury published a minute on a recent Public Accounts Committee report dealing with the NBS. This makes it clear that the Treasury and the Department of Industry hope to establish financial duties in respect of the NBS's investment in British Leyland when it receives from the NBS its corporate plan.

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Talk of re-imposing the 'corset'

The largest volume of business in financial markets yesterday was probably in bets on the pound's value. That apart, there was little doing. Equities drifted listlessly downwards, not helped by yet more disappointing company results, before coming off the bottom as the afternoon wore on. Short gifts continued to make headway, partly on hopes that short-term interest rates will hold their present low levels for a little longer, and partly on the back of further switching out of the Transpors 4 per cent stock due for redemption just before Christmas.

By and large, though, markets are waiting for developments on the labour front, waiting for this afternoon's money supply figures for the month to mid-October, and waiting for the first hint of the way next week's discussions are going with the visit of IMF team.

As far as the money supply goes, the assumption is that the October figures will be running some way ahead of Government targets, leaving the main point of interest as to just how far ahead and what, if anything, the authorities propose to do about it.

Some people are already thinking in terms of an imminent resurrection of the 'corset' to slow the rate of growth in bank deposits—the major component in the money supply figures.

The authorities may feel that it is rather too early to be contemplating fresh measures. First, they probably feel that it will take some weeks before one can really assess the beneficial impact of the sterling float on monetary growth. Second, they probably want to get through the overall strategy discussions with the IMF before they start to consider specific measures. Finally, they will be hoping that sentiment and available liquidity in the gilt market improves enough over the coming weeks to allow the whole of the new Treasury 10 per cent, 1992, stock to be sold. If that can be done, the situation could well be considered to be adequately under control as Christmas approaches. If not...

Unilever European demand remains weak

Unilever's third quarter contributed to a dull equity market yesterday, but even after a sharp 22p fall, Unilever's shares at 542p are 8.4 per cent higher than they were when better than expected second quarter figures were published in August, while over the same period the FT-100 has shown a net gain of only 1.7 per cent. But unless Unilever can pull something out of the bag in the fourth quarter that relative strength will be under pressure.



Sir David Orr, chairman of Unilever Ltd.

A 24 per cent drop in operating profits in the latest quarter still needs to be put in perspective however. Unilever's first quarter was up 6 per cent, the second 13 per cent, and the third quarter last year was particularly strong. In contrast a 60 to 70 per cent drop in edible oil prices between May and August this time created stock losses instead of the profits of the second three months.

So the 12 per cent decline for the nine months is perhaps a better guide for the year. The worrying factor, though, is slack volume in Europe, and consequent pressure on margins. From the split between Ltd and NV attributable profits, looks to have had a fairly severe effect on the Continent.

With raw material prices, having stabilized, not too much worry on the wages

side, a rise in volume now would make all the difference to margins. Meanwhile, although the United Kingdom interim dividend is up 10 per cent at 7.1 gross, the NV dividend, allowing for exchange difference, is effectively unchanged, so the prospects of a re-rating of the shares next year, when hopefully, dividend restraint is lifted in the United Kingdom (which would allow the payment under the equalisation arrangements of the locked-up dividends currently standing at 31p and a lifting of the Ltd payout to the NV level) begins to look less attractive.

Profits before tax after nine months are down five per cent at £455.1m, and even with a maintained fourth quarter, currency factors will be a depressing effect. So the likely outcome for the year looks to be in the £565m range. Without any signs of an improvement in demand, the shares must be unexciting.

Woolworth Still out of step

Unsettled by the results from Wheatheaf on Tuesday, the market was well prepared for Woolworth. In the event in fact Woolworth's third quarter was poor rather than bad, and enough to halt a run on the shares which were 13p down at 594p last night. Here they are supported by a 10 per cent yield assuming a maintained payment. But the group's long-awaited recovery seems as far off as ever.

So far pre-tax profits are 9.5 per cent adrift at £20.7m while an 8 per cent sales increase to £498m masks a volume fall of as much as 3 per cent.

Whether the group has the strategic buying know-how or marketing ability to take on rivals like BHS, Debenhams or Tesco when spending levels improve still remains to be seen. More evidence should be available after the crucial Christmas quarter when the effects of the latest round of tax cuts begin to make themselves felt. For the moment, though, Woolworth has been the only store group share to underperform the market this year—and that by 17 per cent against the retail sector. At this point, however, the rot may have been stopped if only because Woolworth remains a share for the income-conscious.

As the colour returns to Keynes, the longer-term future holds in store? Plainly priority still has to be given to extricating itself from its property commitments, though latest half-year figures show that this is being effected reasonably well. So Keynes is already giving thought to its future and recruiting staff to boost the fund management side and open up representative offices in the provinces while there are also hopes of entering insurance broking as well.

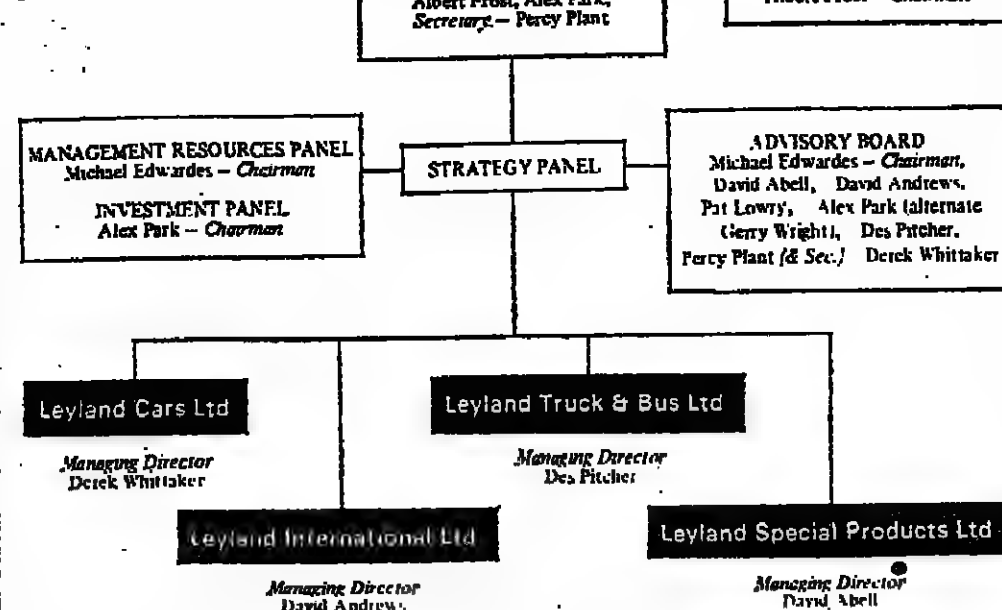
As it is, six-month profits to the end of September show that Keynes has just managed to squeak into the black on trading after the earlier heavy losses and this has been further boosted by a £1.5m write-back for provisions no longer needed, and some of the rest of last year's £3 provisions will be added to the profit and loss account at the year end.

With the Denington housebuilding subsidiary being run down losses there should be cut from over £1m to around £100,000 and Keynes hopes to see annual trading profits running at around £500,000. Meanwhile a further £17m of property has been sold at some £1.5m above its written down value, boosting shareholders funds from £31.5m to £32.8m and with more property sales in the second half that should reach at least £34m by the year end.

Keynes is still vulnerable to a rise in interest rates but with only a standby facility from the clearers it is reliant on cheaper market money. Although falling further in the first half, Keynes now appears confident that deposits and advances should hold steady.

DECISION MAKING STRUCTURE

16 NOVEMBER 1977



Devolution—British Leyland style

The reorganization of British Leyland which resulted from the Ryder committee recommendations of two and a half years ago was largely aimed at breaking up the monolithic central control exercised by the then chairman Lord Stokes and his deputy John Barber. It is not oversteating the case to say that management in the operating companies had become so frustrated by the near impossibility of obtaining decisions without months of delay that they were in a state of open revolt when the Government mounted its rescue operation.

The Ryder plan called for a much reduced corporate staff in London and the creation of four large autonomous business groups—Leyland Cars, Leyland Truck & Bus, Leyland Special Products and Leyland International—each with its own managing director and operating committees.

A theory it was a big step forward to the better utilization of the management and specialist talents which had long languished in Leyland's scattered plants and offices. In practice it proved to be almost as frustrating as the old set up. Instead of the dead hand of one corporate control, the management of the new groups found themselves answerable to three masters, the main board, under chief executive Alex Park, the National Enterprise Board as the controlling shareholder, and Mr Varley's Department of Industry.

Managing directors like Derek Whitaker, the head of Leyland Cars, spent so much time travelling to London followed by wearisome hours justifying every move to three sets of masters that they simply did not have time or energy remaining to develop the structure of their own divisions.

Add to that the fact that every time there was a major confrontation with the work force—and there were many in Leyland Cars—their masters insisted on blow by blow personal accounts sometimes ending in demands for yet another review of company structure and plans.

Now Michael Edwards, the ex-Chloride chief who was appointed chairman and chief executive of BL three weeks ago, has come up with yet another reorganization plan which he claims will carry decentralization further down the road taken so hopefully by Ryder. On paper it would appear to offer savings but decentralization with its heavy superstructure of an advisory board and three corporate panels controlling every phase of decision making.

A more careful study, however, gives some grounds for hope. The old main board made up of eight executive directors (including the heads

of the four operating companies) and five non-executive directors has been replaced by a much smaller seven-man board of which only Edwards and Alex Park (the former chief executive) are full time. The others, drawn from the top echelons of banking and industry, have proven track records and will be able to steer Edwards around the worst pitfalls.

Initial impressions suggest it is a board constructed to operate as a holding company. Certainly it is small enough for quick decision making. It is the appearance of the Advisory Board and executive panels which were being viewed with suspicion within Leyland last night. They each have a clearly defined function and it is how they exercise these functions which is awaited with some trepidation. Will they once again constitute a bottleneck between the operating arm and decision-making?

The likelihood of more structural changes to come is being hinted

There will be few if any complaints about the membership of the four subsidiary boards. Edwards is non-executive chairman of all three motor subsidiaries. The exception is Leyland Special Products, the mini conglomerate of 11 companies manufacturing anything from construction equipment to refrigeration machinery and headed by 34-year-old David Abell. The decision to install Park as the non-executive chairman here will be seen by many as a move to add a leavening of experience to Abell's youthful exuberance.

For all his undoubted energy and ability Edwards is taking on an enormous personal burden. He will be chairman of the main board, chairman of the advisory board, chairman of two executive panels and chairman of three of the four subsidiaries. Whether he will admit it or not he is in danger of falling into the same trap as that which led to the downfall of Lord Stokes.

However, he has made it plain that he regards the chairmanship of the subsidiaries as temporary, necessary by the urgency of the present changes. Industry sources suggest he is already "head hunting" senior executives from outside and they could well be earmarked to take over some of these responsibilities.

The danger is that once having immersed himself in the detailed work of the subsidiaries he will find it very difficult to cut loose again.

Clifford Webb

Economic notebook

Things will look better before they get worse

Britain's inflation rate is coming down fast. The annual rate of price increases in the last half of this year should end up at about 7 per cent, sharply down from the near 20 per cent annualized increase in the first six months of the year. This almost respectable inflation performance will probably continue until well into next year. Unpublished government forecasts are of a 7 per cent annual rate rise in retail prices over the next six months.

Unfortunately even while the monthly figures will be heralded as showing a further decline in the most usual inflation measure—the year on year rise in retail prices—the underlying rate of increase will be edging inexorably higher.

Earnings increases are the key. Yesterday's figures were as good as could be expected. Although the year on year rise in average earnings turned up for the first time for six months, this was largely a reflection of a quirky drop in earnings between August and September last year.

In the first two months of phase three the size of the average pay packet (before tax and national insurance) increased by barely more than 1 per cent. However, this is not an accurate guide to the likely outcome for the whole of the pay round.

It is a more or less open secret that officials in the Treasury are looking for a 15 per cent increase this year in the national wage bill, although the Chancellor is sticking firmly in public, at least to his hoped for 10 per cent. This was never a serious possibility.

The government forecasts that price inflation would fall to about 6 per cent by the end of next year, which were based on the 10 per cent earnings assumption, were always totally unrealistic. This has been underlined by the Government's reaction to the settlements notified so far. It has gradually become clear that "within official guidelines" means settlements at about 10 per cent, which is a far cry from earnings increases of an average 10 per cent.

In July the Chancellor, while unwilling to be drawn on the precise implication for individual negotiators of his phase three target, did eventually admit that settlements would have to be kept to between 5 and 6 per cent to be consistent with a 10 per cent rise in actual earnings.

The Chancellor also warned in July that an average earnings rise of 15 per cent would prevent inflation falling into single figures and would ensure a further acceleration throughout 1978 and into 1979. The decision to allow the pound to float upwards and the favourable trend of commodity prices so far this year, has modified this official gloom.

At the time of his October economic package, Mr Healey said merely that the path of inflation in 1978 "would depend crucially on the level of wage settlements". The text accompanying the published Treasury forecasts warned vaguely that prices would begin to accelerate again in the middle of next year if earnings rose by more than 10 per cent.

Last week's offer to local authority manual workers was something of a fiasco. It could turn out to be a disaster to be equal to an average earnings rise of 10.7 per cent, although

the employers' negotiating body insist that this is unlikely and that the offer was within the guidelines.

The potential breach of official policy seems nevertheless to have come as a nasty surprise to the Treasury. This apart, the Government is generally being seen to stand firm.

It is clearly too soon to rule out a pay explosion or a gradual build up in the level of settlements which would then push earnings well above the 15 per cent official expectation. A game of wait and see is being played by many.

But most forecasters' best guess as the moment is for an eventual outcome of not much more than the Treasury's private estimate of around 15 per cent.

The uncomfortable conclusion that has to be drawn from this is that Britain has still not solved its inflation problem. To be sure 15 per cent or even a little bit more would be a big improvement on the enormous pay rises of 1974-75. Such an outcome may even be compatible with a levelling out of price inflation in a year's time at around 10-13 per cent on year.

If earnings rise by much more than 17 to 18 per cent, as they easily could, then a reacceleration of price inflation is bound to occur.

Meanwhile the prices in Britain's main competitors will be rising at a rate well below 10 per cent. With the pound buoyed up by North Sea oil Britain's real exchange rate will be appreciating rapidly and its competitiveness eroded sharply.

Much has been written about the importance of non-price factors in trade competitiveness. These obviously have much weight, but so equally obviously does price. If British cars or washing machines cost more than comparable foreign goods consumers at home and abroad are less likely to buy them.

North Sea oil ensures a breathing space for the balance of payments but its head again as a constraint on growth. Britain's faster than average inflation and disturbingly high propensity to import, mean that the breathing space will be short.

The propaganda war against inflation is still far from won. Sterling's plunge last year and the consequent acceleration in inflation while wages were rising much less fast were severe setbacks.

It still needs to be hammered home that in anything other than the short term overall living standards can only rise as fast as output increases.

For a short while it is possible to buy more from abroad by charging more for exports, whether this comes through faster domestic price rises or a higher exchange rate. Sooner or later the exchange rate catches up.

Neither is there much scope for raising real wages through squeezing costs: there is not that much which can be squeezed. The Government can give a boost to real incomes through cutting taxes, but this only increases the government's borrowing as it leads to more output.

There is room for a genuine increase in incomes next year. Both output and output per worker are expected to rise, but to the extent that earnings rises exceed the rise in productivity they will feed into prices.

The Government's commitment to money supply targets should stop inflation from soaring out of control. It may also lead to less employment and output for a given level of earnings rise as firms find themselves unable to finance high settlements. It is unlikely, however, to stop the present wage round from pushing wage inflation well above the average in the other industrialized countries.

Caroline Atkinson

Business Diary: Who's now who at BL

Edward Townsend and Ross Davies look at faces, new and not-so-new, involved in the latest reshuffle at British Leyland.

From the people point of view, the big question today must be: who will head three of the four new operating companies?

Michael Edwards, the chairman and chief executive, has been named as non-executive chairman pro tem of three, Leyland Cars, Truck and Bus and, lastly, International.

Alex Park, chief executive until Edwards came in, will combine non-executive chairmanship of the fourth, Special Products, with an executive vice-chairmanship of the holding company.

Edwards will probably retain the chairmanship of Cars, which is the group's prime disaster area, particularly since he can now fall back on a deputy chairman. This is Ian MacGregor, a Scot who was formerly chairman and chief executive of the big American mining group, Amstar, as well as of other big United States concerns, such as Singer and Bendis.

This still leaves the question of the Truck and Bus and International chairmanships, which incidentally carry non-executive vice-chairmanships like Park's at the new Nuffield House headquarters.

Neither Edwards nor anybody else at BL was talking about the vacancies yesterday, but if they follow the pattern set by Edwards' choice of two holiday company direc-

tors, then they could be strangers to BL and to the motor manufacturing industry alike.

They will, however, have a track record of success and be acceptable to the NEB, which Edwards consulted before announcing the reshuffle.

This is the pattern with the two newcomers who were yesterday named as non-executive directors of the holding company, British Leyland Limited: Austin E. Bide and Albert Frost are newcomers both to Leyland and to the motor industry and have both had successful careers in their chosen industry, chemicals.

Bide, who is 62, is the chairman of the chemical manufacturers Glaxo, a big but quietly effective company. He prefers fishing to public life, but when last year's Labour Party conference called for the nationalization of the pharmaceuticals industry he spoke out.

Nationalization, he said, was incorrectly regarded as a panacea, he added, "those who prescribe drugs demand specific remedies for specific ills, and deeply distrust panaceas".

Frost, who is 63, prefers playing violins to fish, but is a

much more ebullient character, who seems thoroughly to enjoy changes of direction. Sometime barrister and taxman, he retired as finance director of ICI in the spring of last year, only to bob up as a part-time executive director of Marks & Spencer (and incidentally the only "outsider" on the board) with special responsibility for overseas operations.

Lord Stokes, by the way, continues as life president of Leyland and will continue his roving ambassador role in its overseas markets. Park, incidentally, may be

able to maintain or even increase his influence. As well as his holding company seat, he is both on the powerful advisory board as well as chairman of the new panel that vets all big expenditure, and he is responsible to Edwards for finance, corporate planning and audit.

Two other members of the former Leyland board are yet to go. One is Gerry Wright, who was finance director and who will be Park's alternate on the advisory board. The other is Pat Lowry, former personnel director and now director of personnel and administration (also on the advisory board).

Don't call us, we won't call you: when news broke of the decision to close BL's Marylebone Road offices—former home of another stricken company, Burmah Oil—a £500,000 telephone exchange link to group operations throughout the country had just been installed, ready for operation early next year.

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Land Securities

Interim results

The Directors announce that the unaudited consolidated results for the six months ended 30th September 1977 are:

Year to 31.3.77	(Figures in £000's)	Six Months to 30.9.77	30.9.76
59,667		31,018	20,062
43,562	Total gross income	22,583	20,178
22,036	Income from completed properties (Note 1):	10,005	10,842
21,526	Net rents and interest receivable	12,578	9,336
8,863	Less: outgoing and expenses	6,540	4,855
	Income before taxation		
	Less: Taxation (Note 2)		
12,663	Net income from completed properties available for distribution	5,838	4,481
	Earnings per share:		
7.90p	Basic (Note 3)	3.13p	2.79p
6.71p	Fully diluted	3.00p	2.60p

NOTES

- Income from completed properties includes £2,954,000 (1976: £2,528,000) interest receivable on deposits.
- The taxation charge for six months periods is computed at 52% whereas the charge for the year reflects relief arising from capital allowances.
- The basic earnings for the period reflect the issue of approximately 32.8m Ordinary Shares of 50p on the conversion of Convertible Unsecured Loan Stocks in September 1977.
- Net outgoing after taxation attributable to development properties, amounting to £2,162,000 (1976: £2,399,000), are offset by a transfer from Capital Reserve. The unrealised exchange movement of the US dollar loan is also dealt with through Capital Reserve; for the period, there is a gain of £735,000 (1976: loss £6,410,000).

An interim dividend of 1.5p net per share, 2.273p gross (1976: 1.5p net; 2.308p gross) has been declared and will be paid on 15th December 1977 to holders registered on 18th November 1977. The net interim dividend payable amounts to £2,896,000 (1976: £2,405,000), reflecting the conversions in September 1977.

The supplementary final dividend of 0.05p net per share for the year to 31st March 1977, payable on the Ordinary Shares in issue on that date in accordance with the Resolution passed at the Annual General Meeting held on 19th July 1977, will be paid on the same date as the interim dividend to holders registered on 30th September 1977.

THE LAND SECURITIES INVESTMENT TRUST LIMITED

Devonshire House, Piccadilly, London W1X 6BT

What does Grindlays bank on?

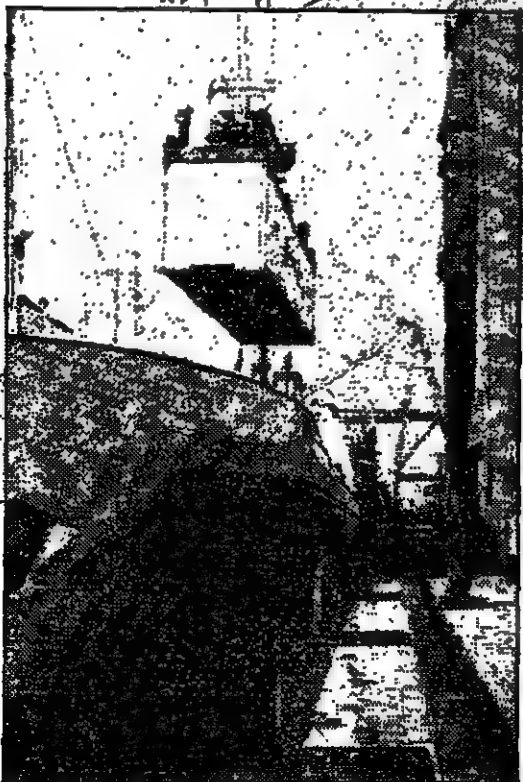
The Grindlays Bank Group has come a long way from its beginnings in the 19th Century. In 1977 we are a major international bank - a world leader in certain areas - but we work hard to preserve the traditions that put us where we are today.

Although the Group is now represented and active all around the world, we have not forgotten that it is people who make our business: our own specialists and managers in head office and branches working alongside other people - our customers.

The success of this team effort can be seen in these examples of the Group's activities - as they happen. They are the result of people's efforts. That is what Grindlays banks on.



THE GROUP PROVIDES BANKING FACILITIES FOR 71 OF THE U.K. TOP 100 INDUSTRIAL COMPANIES SOMEWHERE IN THE WORLD. Two of our corporate banking team in London discuss the financing of a project in the Middle East with the Finance Director of a leading British contracting company.



THE GROUP ACTIVELY PROMOTES BRITISH EXPORTS THROUGH ECSD DOLLAR BUYER CREDITS. We have arranged ECSD export finance facilities for British equipment to customers in over 55 countries.



THE GROUP'S TREASURY DIVISION COVERS ALL FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND MONEY MARKET ACTIVITIES. Our foreign exchange dealing room is one of London's most active in the major currencies and also provides quotations in up to 40 other currencies. The Treasury is also active in the eurocurrency and sterling inter-bank markets and in particular offers a service in a wide range of money market instruments.



Grindlays Bank Group

23 Fenchurch Street, London EC3P 3ED.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Down again despite bear closing

On what many dealers thought was the slowest day of the year share prices staged a strong rally in the post-bench session as the short-term "bears" closed down their positions.

Early sentiment was once again badly hit by worries over company profits, the particular point of concern being third quarter results from Unilever which were not only well below market hopes but also did not bode well for the final three months.

The FT index, 9.1 off at 1 p.m., improved steadily thereafter and by the close was just 3.5 down to 484.2. Late in the session dealers were speculating how much worse things would have been if Unilever had been an index constituent. Government stocks were similarly sluggish and gains were generally limited to one quarter of a point in this trading.

Onward and upward (by and large) climbs Jones Woodhead. The shares are now 22p, against 9p earlier this year. Norwich Union and Prudential have 15 per cent between them. It looks as if this bid situation could make profits of 17m or more in the year to March 31 next against less than £4.5m last time. Dividend cover is massive. The interim bullism due soon should be good.

Naturally enough Unilever's shares had a volatile session, opening at 56p and dropping to a "low" of 53p. By the close they had rallied to 54p but still a net loss of 2p on the day. The NV ended 62p lower at £23.87.

Elsewhere among the "blue chips" movements were less dramatic though Beecham dipped 5p to 62p and Glaxo 4p to 53p. ICI, whose figures next week are being viewed with increasing concern, dipped just a penny to 36p.

Issues again made a strong showing.

The long running saga of Crane Fruehauf took another twist when the American Fruehauf Corporation came with yet another counter offer worth 90p. The hope that Indecap will provide further competition had the shares 9p to the good at 92p.

Hay's Wharf soared 16p to 189p on widespread talk that the Kuwait Investment Office had sold its 34 per cent stake to a potential but as yet unidentified suitor. The renewed speculative interest in Federated Chemical over the last two sessions was vindicated when it was learned that the group was in talks and the shares gained another 8p for a close of 76p. Furness Whyte was well supported again rising another 14p to 35p.

The Commercial Union rights and the fear that the firm's strike might lead to an increase in fire damage claims cast a shadow over the insurance sector.

Electronic Machine held steady at 20p despite gossip of problems. Mr N. Munro, chief executive says that the second half year should be much better

than the first, and the official forecast of progress in 1977-78 still holds good.

Some think that last week's sale by Goode Durrant & Murray of its United Kingdom instalment credit business to the United States for £10m may be the prelude to a bid. Assets stand at more than double the share price of 26p for this "close" company, and it is thought the controlling interests might be tempted by the right terms. The fortunes of the Rowlands householding subsidiary, whose shares are suspended, are now said to be much improved after a loss in the half year to April.

Equity turnover on November 15 was 568.42m (13,578 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were ICI, Beecham, Unilever, Royal, BAT Dfd, Hay's Wharf, Shell, BAT ord, Grand Metropolitan, BP partly bid, Associated Dairies, Federated Chemicals, Marks & Spencer, Vickers, Wheatheaf, Woolworth and Muirhead.

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings per share	Dividend	Pay date	Year's total
ICI (P)	3,212.6	0.16(0.25)	1.21(1.1)	—	—	(2.4)
Chemicals & Bldg (P)	3,212.6	0.22(0.04)	1.16(3.94)	10.0(NH)	—	10.0(NH)
Electronics Inv (I)	—	0.67(0.30)	—	0.61(0.4)	13/1	(1.2)
BNL (I)	—	—	—	1.67(1.5)	2/12	(1.2)
Keyser (I)	1.7(1.5)	0.39(2.4)	2.9(11.9c)	—	—	(1.0)
Land Secs (I)	3.2(4.2)	1.5(6.1c)	2.6(12.3c)	—	—	(1.0)
Lea-Fraser (I)	—	12.5(9.3)	3.0(2.60)	1.5(1.3)	—	(1.0)
Micromed (F)	7.0(5.5)	0.15(0.13)	1.45(1.19)	1.25(0.9)	21/12	2.7(2.4)
Muirhead (F)	1.5(1.5)	0.82(0.70)	38.0(30.7)	7.45(7.6)	20/1	12.45(11.14)
Nthn Goldsmiths (I)	1.37(1.30)	1.5(1.4)	13.7(11.6)	3.0(2.7)	3/1	3.7(3.3)
P. F. (I)	2.9(2.3)	0.17(0.12)	2.33(2.27)	0.85(0.85)	6/1	(1.5)
J. W. Speer (I)	2,418.06(2,202b)	1.0(0.75)	18.93(22.59)	0.63(0.58)	30/12	(1.6)
Unilever (Q)	—	153.1(181.6)	7.44(7.46)	7.44(7.46)	23/12	(19.24)
Unilever NV (Q)	—	0.30(0.24)	3.4(3.2)	3.4(3.2)	23/12	(1.8)
Wright Case (I)	4.0(4.5)	0.26(0.24)	—	0.35(0.35)	6/2	(1.1)
F.W. Whitworth (Q)	497.7(459.3)	20.6(22.8)	—	2.75(2.75)	21/12	(1.7)

Use of tax on profits per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown in pence. To establish group multiples the net dividends by 1.515. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. a. Guilders. b. Combined figures. c. Loss. d. forecast.

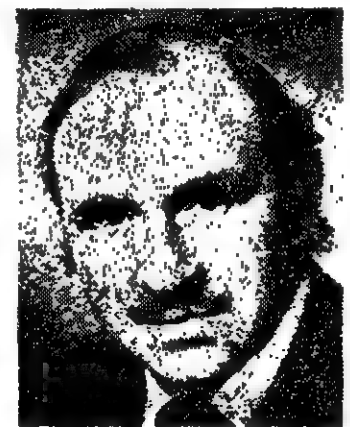
Fruehauf bids 90p a Crane share

By Victor Felstead

The fight for control of Norfolk-based Crane Fruehauf, which began over a year ago, entered yet another stage yesterday. Fruehauf Corporation, the US group which started the bidding in October, 1976, raised its offer to 90p cash a share, valuing Crane at £13.89m.

This is 9p a share higher than the rival (agreed) offer of 81p cash from Indecap, the international trading group, which only entered the fray last month. Indecap's share alternative is 27 shares for every 125 in Crane. Based on Tuesday's close, this values each Crane share at 80p. Crane's shares jumped by 9p to 92p yesterday - a new 1977-77 "high".

The Fruehauf Corporation now owns, or has agreed to buy, 5.69m shares in Crane, or about 37 per cent. Its offer has been extended until November 30. Fruehauf's offer is conditional only on the receipt of acceptances for just over



Mr Angus Murray, chairman of Crane Fruehauf.

another 13 per cent of Crane's capital. A spokesman for Baring Brothers, adviser to Indecap, said the situation would now be reviewed in the light of Fruehauf's increased bid.

The US group has had trading relations with Crane since 1961 and took a one-third stake in 1963. In October last year, it made a bid of just 27p cash a share. This was quickly called "derisory" by Crane's board.

But the bid lapsed when it was referred to the UK Monopolies Commission. Then in August the commission ruled that it could go ahead. However, the conclusion was based on a split vote.

Crane's trading started to improve in the first half of this year being rebid to £12m. The US company more than doubled its terms to 61p cash a share. But the answer was still "no".

Less than a month ago, Fruehauf increased its offer to 70p a share. Finally, at the end of October, Indecap made its surprise offer—topping Fruehauf's terms and carrying the recommendation of Crane's UK directors. Crane makes semi-trailers, transporters, tankers, containers, van and truck bodies.

Harcros revenue doubles

In the six months to September 30, the pre-tax revenue of Harcros Investment Trust more than doubled to £570,000 from £309,000 for the similar period last year. This is more than the record £528,000 made in the whole of the year to March 31.

However, the board explains that the revenue figures are not, in fact, comparable. They include the special dividends paid on June 1 by Golden Hope Plantations, London Asiatic Rubber and Produce, and Pataling Rubber Estates as part of the proposals for the merger of the three companies into Harcros Mayallian Estates.

These dividends totalled £256,000, excluding the tax credit. Net revenue for the half-year rose from £199,000 to £441,000, after a £25,000, compared with £110,000 last year. The board estimates that net revenue for the full year will be about 50 per cent above the £357,000 for 1976-77.

The gross interest dividend rises from 0.61p to 0.9p. Last year's final was 2p gross.

Ever Ready to spend around £40m

By Christopher Wilkins

Ever Ready is planning a considerably enlarged capital investment programme which will involve it in spending at least £36m and possibly more than £40m in the next two to three years.

It will represent a major expansion from the subdued level of expenditure of the past two years which has totalled only just over £9m. Largely as a result of the low level of liquid investment the group's position has improved considerably and, following the disposal of its stake in Mallory's European operations, it now has net cash in its balance sheet.

Part of the investment will be allocated to new developments in alkaline manganese batteries and button cells, the former accounting for perhaps £4m-£5m and the latter perhaps £24m.

The bulk of the investment, however, will be in the conventional zinc carbon battery business.

Spear shows increase at the halfway stage

By Alison Mitchell

Buoyed up by higher sales and prices "Scrabble" maker T. W. Spear & Sons has chalked up a near 33 per cent rise in interim profits.

On sales of £2.9m, against £2.4m, the group made pre-tax profits of £1m in the six months to June 30 last. These compare with £757,000 for the first half of last year.

Sales in the second six months are expected to be higher than for the same period in 1976, according to Mr. Jacob Spear, chairman. So a full time profit of around £2.8m seems to be in sight.

In the first six months Spear, the largest manufacturer of wooden dominoes in Europe, raised prices by around 15 per cent. Even so, the volume of toys and games sold, both at home and abroad, increased.

Since June, trading has continued to be buoyant. The factories are now running flat out to complete orders by Christmas.

Many groups in this sector have been finding that retailers are delaying orders to see how much customers will spend. But Mr. Spear warns shareholders that this may be disappointed, because his group will not be able to take on any more work after the end of this month.

In the first part of a plan to change its rented premises for freehold buildings, Spear has spent around £1m expanding all departments.

Rising materials costs and an increasing wage bill stop Mr. Spear from making a specific forecast for the full year, but the board promises a maximum dividend.

Fed Chem resumes talks

A rise of 15 per cent to 76p in the shares of Federated Chemical Holdings, in the last two days was the prelude yesterday to news that the group has resumed talks which may lead to a full bid.

As the shares now stand at 75p the group carries a price tag of about £11m. In October the group announced a drop in pre-tax profits for the six months to June 30, from £1.69m to £1.32m. This reflected a jump in interest payable from £191,000 to £306,000. Sales leapt from £20.1m to £27.1m. Earnings a share collapsed from 6.27p to 3.62p.

The directors will report to shareholders on these discussions as soon as possible.

Muirhead disappoints with £1.6m peak

Muirhead has finished the year to September 30 with a record profit of £16m—a rise of 10 per cent. But progress has been too slow to please the market and the shares dropped 16p to 169p. The second six months made just £99,000 more than the same 1976 period, to bring in £944,000 for the half year.

The interim results in May brought news of a shakeout in the United States operation, which brought closure costs of £50,000 but the prospect of long-term benefits. At home there

were problems with a new document facsimile range—which was delayed for a year.

Nthn Goldsmiths is off to good start

Mr Radcliffe Cooke, the chairman of Northern Goldsmiths says that results for the six months to August 31 are quite encouraging. He hopes that Christmas sales will emulate last year's record. Unfortunately the group has had a burglary at its shop in Penrith, but it is too early to say what effect, if any, this will have on the full year. Meanwhile, profits are 23 per cent ahead at £56,000 on sales 5 per cent up at £1.37m. This gives a rise in margins from 5.8 per cent to 6.9 per cent.

Interim setback at Chamberlin & Hill

After a drop in pre-tax profits from £250,000 to £166,000, Chamberlin & Hill reports that the outlook remains uncertain. Sales at this light-grey iron foundry went up from £2.6m to £3.2m, but demand fell at a time when the group had extended capacity. The Platt Malleable Castings group has also required heavy development costs. Although the outlook remains clouded, demand is picking up and this should mean a better second half year.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Disney and American Express decide against a marriage

Burbank, California—Walt Disney Productions disclosed that it recently met with American Express to consider combining the two companies. But no further meetings are planned and consideration of the matter has ended.

The two groups made this plain after inquiries from the New York Stock Exchange. Last week executives of American Express made a visit which had been arranged several weeks ago to officers of Walt Disney Productions.

During the visit, American Express officers suggested that there might be areas of joint interest, which would indicate the desirability of considering a combination of the two companies. No terms were discussed, the companies said.

Reports of a possible merger after a long and complex process were added. No further meetings are planned.

American Express (travel, banking, insurance) decided last month through its International Banking Corporation to inject capital into Group Lotus Car Companies in a deal giving it an option to subscribe for nearly 10 per cent of Lotus.

Not sales for the St. Columba Post a Mousson Group, the industrial group, rose to 21.55m francs between January 1 and September 30 last, compared with 17.2m francs, an increase of 24.7 per cent.

After taking into account changes in the consolidation plan in the intervening time, and in particular the consolidation at the end of 1976 of the Mousson Group, the Mousson Group, and Glaceries de St. Roch in Belgium, the increase amounts to 11.4 per cent.

After elimination of the effects of the changes in monetary policy between the two periods of reference the increase in sales amounts to 10.4 per cent.

The construction materials division, which accounts for 41.9 per cent of the group's consolidated sales saw sales increase by 15.1 per cent. The service activities account for 21.8 per cent of consolidated

International

Half these arise from countries which saw no increase in volume, and the other half from distribution operations whose sales rose by 11.4 per cent over the nine months.

Tenneco listings

Houston, Texas—Tenneco has announced that its common stock has been accepted for trading, effective from today, November 17, on the stock exchanges at Basel, Geneva and Zurich.

The addition of the three Swiss exchanges brings to seven the number of exchanges outside the United States on which Tenneco common stock is traded. The stock was listed on the Frankfurt and Dusseldorf exchanges on November 8 and 9. It has been listed on the London exchange since early last year and on the Toronto exchange since 1970.

Tenneco is the twentieth largest industrial corporation in the United States in terms of sales.

Eastern Air Lines

New York—The proposed offering of 2m shares in Eastern Air Lines, a real estate company, has been postponed, lead underwriter Merrill Lynch said.

The shares were to have been tentatively priced last night for a proposed offering today, but Merrill said that the pricing will not take place. As yet it could not say when the issue will be offered. Merrill also said that it could not say when the issue will be offered. However, the firm did add that the issue was still alive.

Ford looks ahead

Mahwah, New Jersey—Ford Motor is projecting United States Real Gross National Product growth in 1978 of 4.3 per cent, executive vice president

Landsecs up 34pc in opening half-year

The fall in interest rates helped Land Securities Investment Trust, the largest property group in the world, to report a 34 per cent increase in pre-tax profit for the half-year to September 30.

Gross income was 10.5 per cent greater at £31.01m. Dealing only with income from completed properties, net rents and interest receivable were 1.5 per cent ahead to £22.5m. But with the interest bill down from £10.84m to £10m, pre-tax profit has jumped by 34.7 per cent to £12.57m.

Income from completed properties also included interest on deposits. This climbed by 56.4 per cent to £3.95m.

After tax computed at 52 per cent for both half-years, net income from completed properties available for distribution was also 34.7 per cent up. Basic earnings per share rose from 2.79p to 3.13p and fully diluted from 2.6p to 3p.

Shareholders collect an interim payment of 2.27p gross, compared with 2.3p. The net payment takes £2.69m, against £2.4m, reflecting the conversions in September.

The shares closed unchanged at 205p. As March 31 last, net assets per ordinary share, fully diluted were 223p.

Pre-tax profits in 1977-78 rose from £17.57m to £21.52m.

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Remploy could see £20m deficit this year

By Alison Mitchell
Remploy, the Government-backed company providing jobs for the disabled, had a £16.9m excess of expenditure over income in the year to March 31.

The deficit this time round is likely to be even greater. Financial director Mr Russell Benjamin admitted to Business News yesterday that in the first six months of the current year the loss totalled £10.1m against a previous £8.6m. This could see the company some £20m down at the end of the period.

Oddly, the problem comes from increasing sales.

The nature of the group, with its 86 factories scattered throughout the country and its wide range of products, means that the more it sells the more it loses.

And in the first six months of this year, sales in the United Kingdom increased by more than 6 per cent to £13.3m. Exports, so far up 30 per cent to £542,000, are on target to reach £750,000 by the end of the year.

Wages also have an impact on the average basic pay in the Remploy factories was £18.12. This is now £38.50 and has led to a cut in the workforce.

Chairman Mr Allen Greenwood says in the annual report that, to keep within the Government's "cash limits", the Remploy workforce were cut by over 300 in the year to 1977. This was brought about through natural wastage rather than redundancies.

But there are plans drawn up with the Manpower Services

Commission, to increase this total to 9,100 by the early 1980s.

However, the chairman points out that a small rise in wages adds an extra million pounds a year to the wage bill. This in turn can set a limit to the number of disabled people that can be recruited.

In the last accounting period Government grants to the company totalled £18.9m compared with £16.8m the year before.

The savings to the Exchequer, according to the chairman, from these disabled people being in employment amounts to at least £14.5m leaving the cost to the country, in real terms, at some £2.5m net of interest on capital.

The chairman also outlined plans for the provision of five

additional and four replacement factories. A study group looking into the problems at Remploy has found that almost 20 factories ought to be replaced.

But limits on capital spending will result in this programme going ahead at a slower pace than might be desired, he said.

Sales in the packaging and assembly and clothing and leather goods divisions are well ahead of the same period last year but the furniture side of the business is, in line with the market, finding the domestic market heavy going.

In recent weeks Remploy has won a £27,000 order from the American Defence authorities to provide overalls used by Nato pilots.

Unilever results

for the third quarter and first nine months of 1977, and the interim Ordinary dividends

COMBINED RESULTS (£ millions)

Third Quarter 1977	Third Quarter 1976	Increase/Decrease	Nine Months 1977	Nine Months 1976	Increase/Decrease
2,418	2,202	+10%	7,230	6,445	+12%
1,014	957		3,036	2,736	
1,404	1,245		4,194	3,709	
144.8	190.5	-(24%)	436.8	488.3	-(12%)
4.1	(8.6)		4.1	(10.7)	
0.5	0.8		1.1	1.4	
14.7	4.6		45.1	9.8	
(11.1)	(7.7)		(32.0)	(21.9)	
(11.4)	(10.2)		(35.1)	(30.4)	
0.3	2.5		3.1	8.5	
153.1	181.6	-(16%)	455.1	476.9	-(5%)
(68.0)	(84.9)		(210.4)	(222.0)	
(7.0)	(2.0)		(20.9)	(4.4)	
0.1	0.4		(0.6)	(3.0)	
(6.5)	(11.2)		(17.2)	(31.2)	
(5.6)	(10.3)		(14.4)	(28.4)	
(0.9)	(0.9)		(2.8)	(2.8)	
71.7	83.9	-(15%)	206.0	216.3	-(5%)
(1.4)			(3.9)		
70.3	83.9	-(16%)	202.1	216.3	-(7%)
38.5	38.1		112.8	95.1	
31.8	45.8		85.3	121.2	
18.93p	22.58p	-(16%)	54.41p	58.23p	-(7%)

Exchange Rates

As has been our practice the results for the quarter and the first nine months and the comparative figures for 1976 have been calculated at comparable rates of exchange. These are based on £1 = FL 4.18 = US\$ 1.70, which were the closing rates of 1976. Total Concern profit attributable to ordinary capital for the current quarter and the first nine months has also been recalculated at the rates of exchange current at the end of September 1977 being based on £1 = FL 4.28 = US\$ 1.75.

Accounting Policies

As we explained in our two previous quarterly announcements we have, in our reporting prior to 1977, made no distinction between associated companies, which are minority shareholdings where we have a significant influence in management, and trade investments where we have not. The results of associated companies have in total been immaterial and, therefore, such companies have been treated as trade investments with only income received taken up in the consolidated Profit and Loss Account. The sales and operating profits of associated companies and trade investments are not included in the Concern figures.

With effect in the consolidated accounts from 1st January, 1977, our shareholding in UAC of Nigeria was reduced from 80 per cent to 40 per cent and that company ceased to be a subsidiary and became an associated company. Consequently, UAC of Nigeria sales and operating profit are no longer in the consolidated figures. After UAC of Nigeria became an associated company total results of associated companies became material and a change in accounting policy was required. As from 1st January, 1977, therefore, whilst the sales of associated companies continue to be excluded, our share in their results is shown separately after operating profit.

The 1976 figures are restated on the new accounting basis: sales and operating profit for that year are unaffected but profit before taxation and profit attributable are increased by some 1 per cent over the originally published figures, due to the inclusion of our share of results from associated companies which were previously treated as trade investments.

RESULTS

The September quarter was a poor one, especially in comparison with the good results for the corresponding period of 1976. The sales increase was largely accounted for by price rather than volume, which rose by only about 1 per cent in the quarter.

In Europe markets were sluggish and sales volume fell slightly. Disappointing results in Animal Feeds and Ice Cream can be attributed to the wet summer of 1977 as opposed to the hot drought conditions in 1976. Oil milling results were badly affected by reduced demand for meal, leading to lower volume and margins.

In North America this quarter's profits improved on those of 1976. In other overseas countries results remain ahead of last year. Results from UAC International continue to be good.

Total results are again influenced by the effect of the change in the shareholding of UAC of Nigeria. Based on a comparison with 1976 figures adjusted to show the effect of this change, sales in the September quarter rose in value by 14 per cent while operating profits on this basis fell by 15 per cent for the September quarter.

DIVIDENDS

The Boards today declared interim dividends in respect of 1977 on the Ordinary capitals at the following rates which are equivalent in value at today's rate of exchange in terms of

the Equalisation Agreement between the two companies:
LIMITED
per 25p Ordinary share
7.64p (1976: 7.46p)

N.V.
per Fl. 20 Ordinary capital
Fl.3.40 (1976: Fl.3.20)

LIMITED's interim dividend, taking account of the reduction in Advance Corporation Tax, is equivalent to the interim dividend for 1976. The strengthening of the £ Sterling gives rise to a higher interim dividend in N.V.

In the case of N.V. the interim dividend will be paid on 22nd December, 1977.

Of LIMITED's interim dividend, an amount of 4.66p per share will be paid on 23rd December, 1977 to shareholders registered on 9th December, 1977.

In gross equivalent terms (i.e. after adding Advance Corporation Tax at the current rate) this payment of 4.66p will represent an increase of 10 per cent over the corresponding payment a year ago (4.18p).

The balance of LIMITED's 1977 interim dividend, amounting to 2.98p per share, and the deferred balance of 1976 and earlier dividends amounting to 17.79p per share making a total of 20.77p per share, will be paid, when circumstances permit, to holders of Ordinary capital now in issue registered at the time of payment. For the purpose of equalising

LIMITED's and N.V.'s dividends under the Agreement, the Advance Corporation Tax in respect of any dividend paid by LIMITED has to be treated as part of the dividend. The figures now announced for LIMITED's 1977 interim dividend and the deferred balance of 1976 and earlier dividends have been calculated by reference to the current rate of Advance Corporation Tax (34/66ths): if the rate is changed before payment of these dividends has been completed, the figures will be adjusted accordingly and a further announcement made. The 1976 interim dividend of 7.46p shown above was calculated at the then current rate of 35/66ths.

The resolution of the members at LIMITED's Annual General Meeting on the 11th May, 1977, required the final dividend in respect of 1976 of 11.78p per share declared by that resolution to be adjusted by the Directors in the event of a change in the rate of Advance Corporation Tax. Since then the rate of Advance Corporation Tax for the year beginning the 6th April, 1977, has been fixed at 34/66ths. If this rate had been determined prior to the payment of 7.01p per share in respect of that dividend on the 23rd May, 1977, the payment would have been 7.12p per share. A further payment of 0.11p per share will therefore be made on the 23rd December, 1977 to shareholders registered on the 9th December, 1977.

18th November, 1977

are

Walker & Homer suffers

By Michael Clark
Trading in the last six months in Walker & Homer, the maker of upholstered furniture, has worsened to an extent the company has not previously experienced. So says Mr Gerald Walker, chairman.

The group recently announced a fall in pre-tax profits from £361,000 to £230,000 for the year to July 31. Some £23,000 of these were made in the first six months. Turnover for the year rose from £5.7m to £5.9m.

Because of the pressure on consumer spending recession has persisted longer than expected. It is this, Walker says, which will reduce overheads but enable it to increase production quickly and take advantage of the expected up-turn in trade when inflation makes its impact.

The group is trying to improve its market share by concentrating on the development of new models. In that respect, he believes, it was successful in obtaining the design of the year award for its all-leather five-piece grouping known as the "Puma" range.

Hill Samuel marks time: ships, insurance flat

Despite a generally better year for merchant banks Hill Samuel has only managed to produce profits for the months to the end of September "marginally" to those of the same period last year. These were in fact slightly lower than 12 months earlier.

The group's investment banking and fund management both performed rather better, but were offset by a flat performance in shipping and insurance broking. Steady appreciation and lower interest rates also helped to work against the group.

However, the interim dividend has again risen by the maximum to 2.62p a share.

RUMANA SHIPS
Listing of all securities of Republic of Rumana cancelled. Applications to make specific bargains may be submitted.

CITY HOTELS GROUP
Group has acquired freehold of Monmouth House, in Gloucester Road, London, for £250,000 cash, and has sold its leasehold interest in the Richmond Hotel for £100,000.

FRANCIS SUMNER
Chairman says that although it is too early to quantify the long-term benefits of the sale of Lloyds British Teasing, the immediate effect on the Sumner Group was to reduce group borrowings from £2.3m to £0.2m. Group is now virtually free of gearing, so that it is well placed for future expansion.

STANDARD HOLDINGS
Chairman says that despite stimulation given to economy by mini-budget, he does not look as if home sales volume will reach last year's level. Expects on other hand conditions to do well.

BRIEFLY
C. E. DAWES HELDGS
Chairman says intended disposal, which was voted on at AGM, will result in a cash sum of £2.31m and provide a further 39p a share. Liquidator is to make a further distribution of 25p a share by April.

COYT & DIST PROPS
Proposed to redeem at par the £757,000 outstanding 6 1/2 per cent first mortgage debenture stock 1981-83.

E. ELLIOTT-NEWMILL
Acceptances received by E. Elliott Newmill of 12,330 shares (£4.88 pc) of Newmill Machine Tool, other remains open until Nov 30.

FINTECH INVESTMENT
Chairman says that reorganisation of group continuing and board aims to use temporary support given, to achieve a return to full profitability.

REIS SHARE SCHEME
Chairman says that although it is too early to quantify the long-term benefits of the sale of Lloyds British Teasing, the immediate effect on the Sumner Group was to reduce group borrowings from £2.3m to £0.2m. Group is now virtually free of gearing, so that it is well placed for future expansion.

J. SMART (CONTRACTORS)
Chairman says group has a larger volume of work in hand and expects a further increase in first quarter has been encouraging and he is confident that group will continue to prosper.

Business appointments

NatWest International board restructured

As a result of the recent restructuring of National Westminster Bank group's international business, Mr G. C. Drake has been made head of operations, has been made head of banking operations, international banking division and head of T. A. Green becomes head of marketing and finance.

Mr Green is succeeded as chief international executive, covering financial services, by Mr K. R. Jarrett, senior international executive for the United Kingdom.

Mr D. Morgan, chief manager, overseas branch, has been made chief international executive, Europe, succeeding Mr E. E. Ruddell, who becomes chief international executive, offshore banking operations. Mr G. Cahill, executive vice-president, executive office North America, is to become chief international executive, United Kingdom banking operations. Mr G. J. Peacock becomes chief international executive, strategic investments.

Mr D. A. L. Hickson is the new chief executive of Burnham Industrial Products. He will succeed Mr J. A. Roberts, who is leaving the group to become managing director of Rubenid.

Mr H. J. Hedden, deputy managing director, has been made managing director of Casserly (United Kingdom). He succeeds Mr R. M. Jennings, who is leaving the company.

Mr Christopher Strang and Mr Peter Clarke have been made joint managing directors of Asit & Wilford.

Mr W. W. Todd joins the board of E. Elliot.

Mr L. Davis has been made a director of Trident Television.

Mr Nicholas Asherton is to become senior partner of stockbrokers Montagu, Leach, Stanley from April 17 next. Mr Geoffrey White will remain deputy senior partner. Mr Asherton succeeds Mr P. M. Tapscott.

As a result of the death of Mr

ARTHUR BELL & SONS LIMITED



SCOTCH WHISKY DISTILLERS

PERTH

	6 months ended 30th June 1977	6 months ended 30th June 1976	Year ended 31st December 1976
Group Turnover—excluding inter-company sales	43,661	40,470	116,977
Scotch Whisky Division	36,557	36,464	105,878
Glass Container Division	7,044		11,076
Transport Division	60	4,006	23
	43,661	40,470	116,977
Group Trading Profit	5,775	4,021	11,536
Less: Depreciation	604	520	1,043
	5,171	3,501	10,493
Add: Investment Income	5	4	9
	5,176	3,505	10,497
Less: Interest on loans	1,411	1,227	2,971
	3,765	2,278	7,526
Group Profit before Taxation	3,765	2,278	7,526
Scotch Whisky Division	3,138	2,617	7,439
Glass Container Division	667		151
Transport Division	(40)	(339)	(84)
	3,765	2,278	7,526
Taxation—See Note	318	191	665
Group Profit after Taxation	3,447	2,087	6,861
Earnings per share	24.86p	15.09p	49.49p

An ordinary dividend of 4.41692 pence per share is proposed for the accounting period of six months to 30th June, 1977. This will amount to £753,000. For the year to 31st December, 1976, an interim dividend of 2.97087 pence per share and a final of 3.15 pence per share were paid and together absorbed £847,000. Preference dividends paid in the six month period to 30th June, 1977, amounted to £8,000 (year to 31st December, 1976 £15,000).

Note:
The estimated relief from taxation arising from increases in stocks held by the Scotch Whisky Division is now regarded as a permanent saving as the Board does not consider that the value of such stocks to be held in the foreseeable future will fall below the value at 30th June, 1977. The current taxation charge reflects the change in policy and the taxation charges for prior periods have also been adjusted.

MARKET REPORTS

Eurobond prices
mid (day indicators)

Country	Year	Rate	Price
Australia	1983	10%	101.00
Belgium	1983	10%	101.00
Canada	1983	10%	101.00
France	1983	10%	101.00
Germany	1983	10%	101.00
Italy	1983	10%	101.00
Japan	1983	10%	101.00
Netherlands	1983	10%	101.00
Spain	1983	10%	101.00
Sweden	1983	10%	101.00
Switzerland	1983	10%	101.00
UK	1983	10%	101.00
US	1983	10%	101.00

Wall Street

New York, Nov. 16.—New York stocks closed mostly lower today, with some blue chip issues showing sharp losses.

The Dow Jones industrial average was down 5.72 at 837.06.

Some 740 issues declined against about 685 gainers.

Volume totaled 24.95 million shares compared with 27.74 million yesterday.

Brokers said further profit-taking on strong recent gains was brought on in part by the report late on Tuesday of another weak rise in industrial output last month.

The report contrasted with earlier news of a strong showing in last month's retail sales.

Also in the day's economic news: October United States housing starts were strong, and personal income in October showed the biggest rise in seven months.

However, analysts said investors were preoccupied with nailing down their earlier gains.—AP-Dow Jones.

Gold loses heavily

New York, Nov. 16.—The Commodity Exchange said it recorded the lowest volume of trading in the history of its GOLD contract yesterday when only 32,300 contracts were traded, down from 100,000 the previous day.

Gold fell heavily yesterday, and was down 52.30 to \$318.00 per ounce.

The price of gold fell from \$318.00 to \$312.50, a drop of 5.50.

The price of silver fell from \$10.00 to \$9.50, a drop of 50 cents.

The price of platinum fell from \$1,000.00 to \$950.00, a drop of 50.

The price of copper fell from \$1.50 to \$1.45, a drop of 5 cents.

The price of nickel fell from \$1.00 to \$0.95, a drop of 5 cents.

The price of zinc fell from \$0.80 to \$0.75, a drop of 5 cents.

The price of lead fell from \$0.60 to \$0.55, a drop of 5 cents.

The price of tin fell from \$1.20 to \$1.15, a drop of 5 cents.

The price of aluminum fell from \$0.40 to \$0.35, a drop of 5 cents.

The price of iron ore fell from \$1.00 to \$0.95, a drop of 5 cents.

The price of steel fell from \$1.00 to \$0.95, a drop of 5 cents.

The price of coal fell from \$1.00 to \$0.95, a drop of 5 cents.

The price of oil fell from \$1.00 to \$0.95, a drop of 5 cents.

The price of gas fell from \$1.00 to \$0.95, a drop of 5 cents.

The price of electricity fell from \$1.00 to \$0.95, a drop of 5 cents.

The price of water fell from \$1.00 to \$0.95, a drop of 5 cents.

The price of food fell from \$1.00 to \$0.95, a drop of 5 cents.

The price of clothing fell from \$1.00 to \$0.95, a drop of 5 cents.

The price of housing fell from \$1.00 to \$0.95, a drop of 5 cents.

The price of transportation fell from \$1.00 to \$0.95, a drop of 5 cents.

The price of communication fell from \$1.00 to \$0.95, a drop of 5 cents.

The price of recreation fell from \$1.00 to \$0.95, a drop of 5 cents.

The price of education fell from \$1.00 to \$0.95, a drop of 5 cents.

The price of health fell from \$1.00 to \$0.95, a drop of 5 cents.

The price of social services fell from \$1.00 to \$0.95, a drop of 5 cents.

The price of government fell from \$1.00 to \$0.95, a drop of 5 cents.

The price of industry fell from \$1.00 to \$0.95, a drop of 5 cents.

The price of commerce fell from \$1.00 to \$0.95, a drop of 5 cents.

The price of finance fell from \$1.00 to \$0.95, a drop of 5 cents.

The price of insurance fell from \$1.00 to \$0.95, a drop of 5 cents.

The price of utilities fell from \$1.00 to \$0.95, a drop of 5 cents.

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Australia	1983	10%	101.00
Belgium	1983	10%	101.00
Canada	1983	10%	101.00
France	1983	10%	101.00
Germany	1983	10%	101.00
Italy	1983	10%	101.00
Japan	1983	10%	101.00
Netherlands	1983	10%	101.00
Spain	1983	10%	101.00
Sweden	1983	10%	101.00
Switzerland	1983	10%	101.00
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Dealers deny
moves to limit
coffee exports

Delegates of coffee exporting nations meeting in London, told their counterparts yesterday that they have not agreed to limit coffee to the world market.

Delegates said the exporters had made this point when reporting at a meeting of the International Coffee Organisation (ICO) executive board on talks the exporters nations held in London on Monday and Tuesday.

Chile may enter
futures markets

Chile's economy ministry and the government planning bureau have proposed scrapping exchange controls which prevent Chilean firms from signing future delivery contracts in international terminal markets, a Central Bank Official said in Santiago.

The official foreign exchange director, Mr Camilo Carrasco, said the proposal is currently being considered at top government level.

Initially, each firm will only be allowed to operate with commodities in its own field of activity, he said.—Reuters.

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited
62-63 Threadneedle Street London EC2R 8HP Tel: 01 638 3651
The Over-the-Counter Market

	Last Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div/pt	Yld %	P-E
	43	—	4.2	9.8	8.0
LS	149	—	18.4	12.4	—
	39	—	3.3	8.7	16.2
	141	—	12.0	8.5	9.7
	98	—	5.1	5.2	7.9
LS	210	+8	17.5	8.3	—
	140	+2	11.5	8.2	6.8
	104	—	2.4	2.3	10.0
50x	100	-1	5.0	10.0	5.8
	113	—	6.0	5.3	10.3
	335	—	27.0	8.0	5.7
	14	—	—	—	—
	72	—	12.0	15.6	—
	63	—	7.0	11.1	7.8
	86	—	6.4	7.4	6.3

Motoring

Peugeot 305: a faultless first impression

First impressions can be misleading and longer acquaintance might reveal defects not immediately apparent, but on the evidence so far the Peugeot 305, which is officially launched today, is the best new car I have driven this year.

I judge this assessment not so much on single outstanding features as on a very high overall standard. It was a great pleasure to get into a car and find it doing all the important things so well: smooth, quiet running, expert and lively performance, smooth gear change, light clutch. In a word, a car of quality.

The 305 can be seen as a belated successor to the 404 and it fills the gap in the Peugeot range between the 304 and the 504. The 304 will continue to be made for some time, though the naming of the new car suggests that it will be the eventual successor. With an overall length of just under 14ft, the 305 is similar in size and is an obvious competitor to cars like the Ford Cortina and the Chrysler Alpine.

Unlike the Alpine, it is not a hatchback with a rear door but an orthodox saloon. In choosing this type of bodyshell, Peugeot may be defying the current trend, but it argues that the hatchback concept is better suited to smaller cars where space is of the essence. An estate version of the 305 will probably be introduced later.

The saloon, meanwhile, helped by a transverse-engineered front-wheel drive layout, has a generous amount of space inside and will take up to three adults in the back seat. The boot is shallow and has a high lip but it goes back a long way and is claimed to be a lot bigger than the Alpine's, though slightly smaller than the Cortina's. The spare wheel is sensibly stored underneath.

The car's angular styling, as the photograph shows, bears more than a casual resemblance to that of the big Peugeot 604, and also to the latest BMW ranges. One advantage of the "three-box" body over the superficially more striking wedge shape is that all four corners can be seen from the driving seat, an advantage when parking.

There is a choice of 1,290cc and 1,472cc aluminium engines, developed from the unit used in the 304 models. Like other French engines, including the Alpine's, they are smaller than their capacity suggests and the 1,290cc, in particular, struck me as quick and flexible for its size. Quiet, too, apart from a buzz at about 70 mph which disappeared at the higher speeds permitted on French roads. There is hardly any vibration.

A refined and nippy car, then, and no less important, a delight to drive. Light and positive rack-and-pinion steering; crisp brakes needing only the gentlest of pressure; a gearbox that can be operated with the little finger and a light clutch; very basic and obvious features, but how few cars have them all! The gearbox seems finely tuned to null the argument that a smooth

The Peugeot 305—an outstanding new French saloon

gearchange is incompatible with front-wheel drive.

The ride, as might be expected from Peugeot, is outstanding. The all-independent suspension soaks up the bumps, is nicely damped and gives off very little road noise. Comfort is enhanced by the well-shaped and generally upholstered seats. Nor, in contrast to some French cars, does soft springing mean a lot of body roll on corners.

Fuel consumption, according to French Government tests, is considerably better than that of either the Alpine or Cortina and the figures suggest that the average driver should get between 35 and 40 miles to the gallon. Interestingly the 1500 is more economical than the 1300.

Emphasising again that these are first impressions, which may have to be modified, I found the 305 difficult to fault. It will be introduced in Britain in the late spring and is likely to cost between £13,000 and £14,500, depending on model and current prices. This seems a little expensive but if the car turns out to be as good as I think it is there should be no shortage of buyers. Ford cars have come a long way since the Zephyr/Zodiac range was affectionately known as the Dagenham dustbin. While, not so long ago, it would have been absurd to speak of a Rover or a Ford in the same breath as a Peugeot or a Renault, the new Peugeot 305 is well into that part of the market. If it does not possess the styling flair of the Rover, it is a thoroughly efficient car and towards the top of the range, a very refined one.

The new Granada—west German import, by the way—differs from the old mainly in its bodyshell and range of engines. The square styling is not dissimilar from that of the Mark IV Cortina and apart from their size the cars could almost be twins.

For engines, the two-litre unit remains but the others are now German V6s in 2.3 and 2.8 litre forms, the latter available with fuel injection, with a diesel to follow.

Road test: 2.8 Ghia

Granada

I drove the car in one of its more luxurious versions, the 2.8 Ghia, which has a long list of standard items including power steering, automatic transmission, electric windows, central locking, radio and automatic serial and rear fog lamp. At £15,747 it costs exactly the same as the Rover 3500, which may be a little presumptuous though not all that much.

The first thing that impressed me was the light and quiet running. The 2.8 litre V6 engine, even under hard acceleration it sounded barely strained and I suspect that it will give relaxed motoring cruising at considerably higher speeds than we

are allowed in Britain. The maximum is around 110 mph. Perhaps because the engine was so well muffled, I was rather aware of wind noise.

Acceleration to 50 mph takes about ten seconds, almost the same as on the automatic Rover 3500, and the kick-down allows plenty of power for overtaking. It is a very good automatic transmission, with well spaced ratios and almost unobtrusive gear changes. My fuel consumption came at 20 to 23 miles to the gallon, about average for the size of car.

The Granada is safe and pleasant to drive. The power steering is excellent; light, accurate and yet retaining enough feel to tell the driver what he is doing. The car corners more tartly than the previous model and holds the road well though it can be slightly thrown off line by bumpy surfaces. The brakes give a prompt response and require only moderate pedal pressure.

One of the main defects of the original Granada (and of other Ford models) was its bumpy ride. Perhaps because the 2.8 Ghia is fitted with gas-filled dampers at the back, I was aware of less harshness and there was much less tendency to wallow on undulating roads. All the same, the ride still falls short of the best French cars.

As is only to be expected from a vehicle more than 15ft long, there is plenty of room inside for up to five people (though the back seats are designed as individual units). I thought the driving seat lacked support at the back. A large glass area means good visibility and the instruments and controls are models, respectively, of clarity and convenience. It is an attractive-looking car inside, with velour trim and wood fascia and door cappings.

Clubman extra

A modest advance in its five-year-old campaign to convince motorists that they can do without the spare wheel is announced this week by Daimler. The Denovo tyre, already available on several Leyland and Fiat cars, is to become an optional extra for the Mini Clubman range.

The Denovo is both a full-size and a run-flat tyre in that a blow-out at speed will not only leave the driver in control of his car but enable him to drive on up to 100 miles at 50 mph. So there is no need to change the wheel by the roadside and to need to carry a spare, which can release useful boot space.

But Denovo is expensive, costing £40 more than a set of conventional tyres and wheels and an extra 250 cc on the Rover and Princess ranges. If more motorists—or manufacturers—took it up it would become cheaper.

Peter Waymark

Broadcasting

6.45 pm

BBC 1

9.25 pm

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Tomorrow's World

Tomorrow's World deserves congratulations for continuing to highlight, albeit unfashionably these days, the talents and abilities of children who are (dare one breathe it?) brighter than their peers. But, of course, the big event of the evening is the highlighting of more than 70 young ladies who are not always brighter (nor even more attractive) than their peers. Still, someone might as well be Miss World, I suppose. And 25 million of us will argue about the result.—I.R.R.

BBC 2

11.00-11.30 am, Play School.

11.30-12.00 pm, The News.

12.00-12.30 pm, The News.

12.30-1.00 pm, The News.

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Thames

12.00, Animal Kingdom (r).

12.30, The News.

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ATV

12.00 pm, Thames, 1.20, ATV.

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7.50, Thames, 7.50, ATV.

Radio

6.00 am, News, Colin Berry.

6.30, Noel Edmonds, 9.00.

6.45, Noel Edmonds, 9.00.

7.00, Noel Edmonds, 9.00.

7.15, Noel Edmonds, 9.00.

7.30, Noel Edmonds, 9.00.

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DEATHS

ROOPE - On November 15th, at St. Mary's Hospital, London, the wife of Mr. and Mrs. J. Roope, a daughter, Emily Jane.

STONEHAM - On November 15th, at St. Mary's Hospital, London, the wife of Mr. and Mrs. J. Stoneham, a daughter, Emily Jane.

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RICHARDSON - On November 15th, at St. Mary's Hospital, London, the wife of Mr. and Mrs. J. Richardson, a daughter, Emily Jane.

DIAMOND WEDDING

HOPKINS - On November 15th, at St. Mary's Hospital, London, the wife of Mr. and Mrs. J. Hopkins, a daughter, Emily Jane.

ADDRESS - On November 15th, at St. Mary's Hospital, London, the wife of Mr. and Mrs. J. Address, a daughter, Emily Jane.

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MONSON AND SALLE WINES

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YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

a Special Report

Behind the assassinations

Great mystery still surrounds the triple killing by gunmen last month of the Yemen Arab Republic head of state, President Ibrahim al-Hamdi, his brother, Colonel Abdullah al-Hamdi, and his brother-in-law, Colonel Ali Kamus.

In the absence of any arrests or hard facts, conflicting versions of what happened at Colonel Abdullah's house on the afternoon of October 11 continue to circulate in Sana'a and other Arab capitals, together with theories and suspicions as to whose finger was really on the trigger.

The disclosure, to emerge later, that two French girls also died in the hail of bullets has given rumour-mongers something of a field day, particularly as the late head of state had hitherto been considered to live an impeccable private life. There is speculation over whether the dead girls were unwittingly perhaps, part of the assassins' plot or just hapless victims caught in the cross-fire. Had they not been foreigners their involvement need never have come to light. On the other hand, it might be argued, foreign girls may have been deliberately chosen to ensure that their involvement did become known.

Although an official commission has been appointed to look into the assassination, most observers believe that few outside the immediate circle of the new Head of State, Lieutenant-Colonel Ahmed Ghashina, and the Command Council will ever know the real story, and perhaps not even then. The murder of a former Prime Minister, Qadi al-Hajari, outside a London hotel earlier this year has never been satisfactorily explained.

When news of the murders first broke, it was assumed by those familiar with the Yemen Arab Republic's vitally oriented politics that the northern shahis were responsible. They have long been at loggerheads with Al-Hamdi's Government whose strike aircraft had more than once in recent months made punitive raids into their territory.

A month later, however, the solution appears less straightforward, and in Sana'a and elsewhere other suspicions are being whispered. Many Yemenis suspect Saudi Arabia of having some hand in it, although they have long tended to blame their rich northern neighbour and benefactor for all their ills. However, the Saudis were so worried by these rumours that they took the highly unusual step of issuing a formal disclaimer.

Setting aside the question of who was responsible for the murders, clearly the new, pro-Saudi leader is a more satisfactory candidate in the eyes of the policy-makers in Riyadh. For some time they had been unhappy about the independent line taken by President al-Hamdi, as his Government was so financially dependent on them.

The ultimate Saudi night-mare is probably the seizure of power in Sana'a by a Moscow or Peking-oriented Junta which would unite with the Marxist regime in Aden and then together have designs on their rich northern neighbour. For a united Yemen would have a ready-made "Trojan horse" of about 1,250,000 able-bodied men inside Saudi Arabia, the goal of their combined workforce for the country today.

Some observers see as significant the fact that al-Hamdi was killed on the eve of his intended visit to Aden for the tenth anniversary celebrations of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

Saudi Arabia, reasonably, has a close interest in who holds power in both Sana'a and in Aden, and in the stability of both countries. Most Western analysts see al-Hamdi's death as a threat to the country's stability. Indeed, a few days after the assassination there was an attempt on the life of the new President, and an army officer was executed.

Reports — unconfirmed — circulating in Sana'a say that after al-Hamdi's murder the garrison at Dhahran, loyal to the president's brother, were agitating to march north, surround the capital and wait there until the murderers or murderers were produced.

Al-Hamdi, at 35 one of the youngest statesmen in the Arab world and a forceful and determined personality, had managed to bring some kind of stability, if not actual unity, to his country after the prolonged and bitter civil war. He was liked personally and respected by the great majority of Yemenis, except in the north, where the deposed imam had their greatest following.

Although he has yet to be tested, the new Head of State is seen by most analysts as a less outstanding figure, but only time will tell whether they are right. He has, however, made it clear that his Government will continue to pursue the policy of his predecessor, and most Western observers in Sana'a accept this.

P. H.

Country stakes all on great leap forward

by Peter Hopkirk

In Sana'a, dusty capital of the Yemen Arab Republic, tough-looking tribesmen with curved jambias in their belts casually flick back their sleeves to consult digital watches. Their womenfolk, still heavily veiled and illiterate, wear expensive French perfumes and lingerie. Small boys clutching fistfuls of nappies play around the execution block in Liberation Square, while their teenage brothers tear through the narrow streets on Japanese motor cycles.

In the mountains donkeys stagger towards remote villages laden with gleaming new freezers, washing machines and small generators, while in the towns grivelled merchants empty suitcases of notes on to bank counters. New Mercedes taxis creep through the suks of the ancient capital, while MiG fighters flash back and forth across the rooftops, young Yemeni pilots at the controls.

The Yemenis, among the last people on earth to emerge from the Middle Ages, have taken to the twentieth century with considerable relish.

In an oil-rich Gulf state none of this would be remarkable. But the Yemen Arab Republic — or North Yemen as it is commonly known — has no oil. It has few other natural resources, dwindling exports, a huge and growing trade deficit, and is officially one of the poorest nations in the world.

Where then does all the money come from? The secret lies in the vast sums sent home each year by the one million or more Yemenis who work in neighbouring Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states. These remittances have now reached a huge annual total of \$1,000m or more. The earnings of one emigrant worker, it is said, can support a small village back at home. Moreover, the extended family system of North Yemen ensures that almost everyone has a stake in the Arabian oil boom.

But apart from raising the morale of a long-improvised population of nearly seven million and giving the country a veneer of prosperity, the remittances at present make little contribution to the strenuous efforts

of the Government to develop a land still economically and socially primitive. Worse, they are the prime cause of inflation, said (there are no official figures) to be approaching 100 per cent in some sectors of the economy.

As a result — for much of the remittances goes into buying housing — building land in certain parts of the capital costs as much as a square foot as in Manhattan, while a car can cost anything up to £100 a day to hire. One expatriate family of two adults and two children told me that their monthly food bill came to about £300.

Meanwhile, the Government is faced with the overwhelming task of equipping the country for its role in the twentieth century. To achieve this it is staking all on the current five-year plan, in its sixth month, which aims to spend \$2,000m on economic and social development.

The Yemen Arab Republic hopes that some 85 per cent of this will be met by soft loans, mostly from other Arab countries, with the remaining 15 per cent coming from the country's own public and private sectors. To stimulate interest in both the plan and the country, the Government has invited 200 delegates, from 21 Arab and 18 other countries, to a four-day conference in Sana'a from November 28 to December 1.

This Arabia Felix of ancient times is peculiarly well placed for attracting foreign aid, qualifying on four counts. As an officially poor country on the United Nations list it qualifies for funds from international bodies like the World Bank. As an Arab country it receives "fraternal" aid from its oil-rich neighbours, and from purely Arab agencies like the Kuwait Fund.

Furthermore, because of its strategic position in the Red Sea jigsaw puzzle it does not go short of politically motivated finance, particularly from Saudi Arabia but also from such diverse sources as China, the Soviet Union and the United States. Finally, it receives help from countries like Britain with no particular motive for courting it — except perhaps as an eventual market.

By far the most generous benefactor is Saudi Arabia, ever watchful of political

nuances both in North Yemen and also in the Marxist-run People's Democratic Republic further south.

North Yemen's recent deeply any suggestion that they are a client state of their wealthy northern neighbour, a natural reaction in a fiercely independent people who over the centuries have seen numerous would-be colonizers off the premises, culminating with the evacuation of President Nasser's expeditionary force in 1967.

"The Saudis need the Yemenis — both their good will and their manpower — every bit as much as the Yemenis need Saudi aid and work opportunities", as one Western diplomat in Sana'a put it.

On the domestic scene, after inflation the most serious problem facing the Government is the accelerating deterioration in agriculture. Until the outbreak of civil war in 1962, the country was self-sufficient in food production. Today some 40 per cent of foodstuffs have to be imported; and this in a land where some 80 per cent of the population is engaged in agriculture.

Apart from the devastation caused by the war, particularly in the northern part of the country, three factors are mainly responsible for this decline. These are: drought, 10 years of drought and remittances.

Production of the country's traditional export crop of coffee is gradually giving way to the more easily grown cash crop of qat, a mildly narcotic shrub whose leaves Yemenis have long been addicted to chewing.

It fetches a high price locally — as much as £10 for one man's daily supply — so farmers growing it can afford to buy their family's food requirements without the sweat of having to produce their own. Because of the country's rugged terrain, which requires intensive terracing, farming has always been back-breaking work. It became increasingly unrewarding during the prolonged period of drought between 1963 and 1973.

This drove many more male Yemenis to emigrate to Saudi Arabia and the Gulf

continued on next page

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Labour shortage threatens development plan

by Atef Sultan

A four-day international conference will open at San'a's Republican Palace on November 28, to study North Yemen's economic and social development over the next five years. About 200 delegates from 21 Arab states, 18 American, European and Asian nations as well as from Arab and other development funds, United Nations agencies and other international organizations and universities, will be presented with a seven-volume document of more than 1,000 pages containing the blueprints of the country's five-year development plan to June 1982.

After a general session, the conference will be divided into several technical and social committees to discuss North Yemen's development requirements in various sectors. The meetings are not likely to suggest new projects, but will try to raise \$440m to help to finance the plan's foreign currency

requirements.

The plan, which follows a \$205m three-year development programme, was launched in June and proposes an investment expenditure of 16,500m rials (\$3,630m) by June 1982. It aims at increasing North Yemen's gross domestic product by at least 8.2 per cent a year compared with 7 per cent in the past three years, which is to be raised, it is hoped, to 9 per cent a year under the second similar programme.

The plan's targets are numerous: to establish economic independence and better living conditions; to create basic services almost from scratch; to increase sources of foreign exchange; to end the massive budget and trade deficits; to achieve self-sufficiency in food; to ease the acute shortage of labour and to establish industry. In short, to build a modern state.

High priority will be given to transport and communications which will be

allocated 4,600m rials (\$1,011m) taking alone nearly 28 per cent of total investment expenditure. Output in these services is expected to grow by 11.3 per cent a year against only 8 per cent in the past three years.

Roads, accounting for the largest share, will be increased to 3,400 km, of which 172 km are now being built. About 46,000 telephone lines will be introduced in San'a, Taiz, Hodeida and other big towns. The port of Hodeida, now one of the world's most congested, will have deep-sea berths and lifting and storage capacity will be increased considerably.

The San'a and Hodeida airports will be rebuilt and more satellite telecommunications networks installed.

Next to transport and communications comes industry and mining. About 4,300m rials (\$945m) will be spent on metallic and industrial mineral prospecting, quarrying and on manufacturing industries including textiles,

cement and other building materials. Electricity and water developments will get 2,000m rials (\$440m). Drilling water supplies, which have been a major investment area in recent years, will be increased steeply, especially in San'a and Hodeida. Electric power is to be raised by 240 per cent by 1982.

Housing, of which there is a dire shortage, gets a remarkable 2,000m rials (\$440m). Housing, somewhat curiously however, will advance by only 3.6 per cent a year, not far off from the 3.4 per cent increase of 1973-76. This is partly because of the sharp rise in domestic construction costs which is expected to continue over the next few years.

Other development sectors, including trade, banking and finance, education, health and other social services and developments will be decided will have the remaining 3,000m rials (\$658m), about 18 per cent

of total allocation.

Unlike its predecessor, the new plan allows a much wider scope for private and mixed sector investments, both domestic and foreign. The private sector is expected to contribute 27.8 per cent, the mixed sector, new to North Yemen, 14.5 per cent, the cooperative sector 6.7 per cent, while the biggest share, 40 per cent, will come from about 170 proposed public sector projects.

Like most other non-oil exporting countries in the Arab world, the plan envisages heavy dependence on foreign finance, although this is likely to be less so compared with other states such as Sudan, Syria or Egypt. About a third of the investments are to be financed from external sources, mostly from rich Arab states and the World Bank.

Of the 5,500m to 5,800m rials (\$1,209m to \$1,275m) to come from abroad, 4,200m rials (\$923m) are said to have already been com-

mitted by Arab states and other sources. The remaining 1,300m rials (286m-\$374m) are still to be raised.

Domestic funds, both public and private, are to meet the remaining two thirds amounting to 10,700m rials (\$2,350m-\$2,418m). The largest share, more than 65 per cent, will, however, be contributed by private investors. Direct government finance is put at only 2,400m rials (527m-\$593m) and another 900m rials (\$198m) will come from cooperative institutions.

Private funds are expected to invest 4,600m rials (\$1,011m) in projects undertaken entirely by private firms and to contribute 2,000m rials (\$440m) to joint ventures with the Government. Public sector finance will come from direct government funds (21 per cent to 25 per cent); foreign loans already committed to specific projects (37.5 per cent); foreign

grants also going to specific projects (15 per cent) and the rest (16.3 per cent to 30 per cent) is still to come from external "soft" loans and grants.

The plan expects that imports will increase by 28.3 per cent a year from 1,721m rials (\$378m) in 1977-78 to 5,976m rials (\$1,313m) in 1981-82. Exports will, however, increase modestly, from 55m rials (\$12m) to only 98m rials (\$21.5m) in the same period leaving a deficit of 16,000m rials (\$3,630m) which amounts exactly to the plan's total investment figure.

Much of the success of such ambitious targets will depend on North Yemen's ability to develop its basic services, administrative resources and on how far the country's capacity to attract foreign credit will continue. The Central Planning Authority said last month that credits worth \$330m had already been agreed with the World Bank, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq and

other friendly states.

These will finance seven big projects included in the plan and consist of a 5100m electric power station, two cement works costing \$20m and a \$30m airport at Hodeida. About \$65m of these credits will be spent on developing Hodeida port and another \$30m will go towards building the new San'a airport. The remaining \$85m will go to telecommunications and to improve San'a's existing airport and Mocha port.

Another \$441m was said to have been agreed with Kuwait in May 1977. The money will be invested in joint-venture development projects proposed by both public and private sectors. These include the San'a Hilton Hotel, a textile mill in Dhamar and building industry schemes including a 300,000-ton-a-year cement plant.

The biggest obstacle to the success of the plan is, however, the acute shortage of Yemen's workers. Capital

intensive projects will be favoured but the workforce will still have to be increased by an estimated 101,000 from the 1,166,000 already employed.

This may prove difficult, however, because large numbers of scarce technical and managerial staff as well as unskilled labourers are fleeing, more lucrative opportunities in the oil-producing Gulf states, particularly Saudi Arabia which has already attracted about one million North Yemenis.

It is clear that progress will be seriously hampered unless greater emphasis is placed on education and vocational training as well as on measures to attract Yemenis working abroad. It is the improvement of both the quality and quantity of domestic manpower which will virtually determine North Yemen's overall economic and social progress.

The author is on the staff of the Middle East Economy Digest.

No nationalization without compensation

by Marcel Berlins

The Yemen Arab Republic has not yet benefited from any substantial wave of foreign investment, and its legal machinery governing such investment has therefore not yet been tested. It is too soon to be able to assess whether practical difficulties are likely to be encountered which were study of the law might not reveal.

The law, number 18 of 1975, guarantees freedom of investment for individuals and companies, Yemeni or foreign, in economic projects which contribute to the development of the national economy. Foreign capital is to be accorded equality of treatment with national capital.

Once an investment project is approved and registered with the Government, "it is not permissible to nationalize or confiscate" it. If, however, "for some unavoidable reason relating to the public interest, the Gov-

ernment finds it necessary to confiscate or nationalize the project, it shall first pay compensation to the owners and give permission for the transfer of such compensation abroad" (provided the capital funds of the project were of foreign origin).

The state guarantees the transfer abroad of net profits which have accrued from the investment of foreign capital (after specified charges, taxation and other financial liabilities have been paid), and, in the event of the liquidation of a project, non-resident owners of foreign capital in that project can have their shares re-transferred abroad. If the amount involved is substantial enough to threaten North Yemen's monetary position, the Government can insist on its being taken out in up to three annual instalments.

Administrative assistance to foreign investors includes the guarantees of visas and residence permits to foreign administrative and technical workers.

Law 18 lays down the criteria that must be met for investment projects to benefit from various exemptions, concessions and facilities. A project must, generally, contribute to the promotion of the Yemeni economy and general revenue, and to the increase of production of commodities and services, so that exports are increased and imports decreased, thus saving foreign currency.

The project must use modern scientific machinery and methods. It must employ the largest possible number of Yemeni administrative and technical workers and arrange to train them so that they can eventually replace foreign workers.

Minimum financial requirements are laid down for various classes of project. For an industrial foreign capital project (one in which the foreign capital share exceeds 90 per cent) the cost of machinery and instruments necessary for

production must not be less than \$250,000. For an agricultural project that figure is \$1m, while the capital cost employed (excluding cost of land) in a tourism project must be at least \$5m. Those amounts are halved where the project is a mixed one—that is one in which the foreign capital percentage is between 10 and 90 per cent.

All approved investment projects are exempt from commercial, industrial and business tax and the like for five years from the date of production.

Industrial projects may be exempted from export charges and taxes on production. The discretion to grant such exemption lies with the Committee of Investment Exemptions, a permanent body chaired by the Minister of the Economy and set up under the law.

Investors in tourism projects are entitled to exemption from "all customs duties, taxes and import duties of whatsoever kind"

for five years (extendable for a further three) from the date the project is approved.

The Committee of Investment Exemptions can also agree to a reduction of customs duties, taxes and import duties on raw and primary products to be used in production up to 25 per cent of their cif value at the port of arrival.

Law 18 lists the obligations placed on project owners. They include having to submit six-monthly progress reports and allowing authorized officials of the Ministry of the Interior the right to enter project sites or offices and make what inspections they think fit.

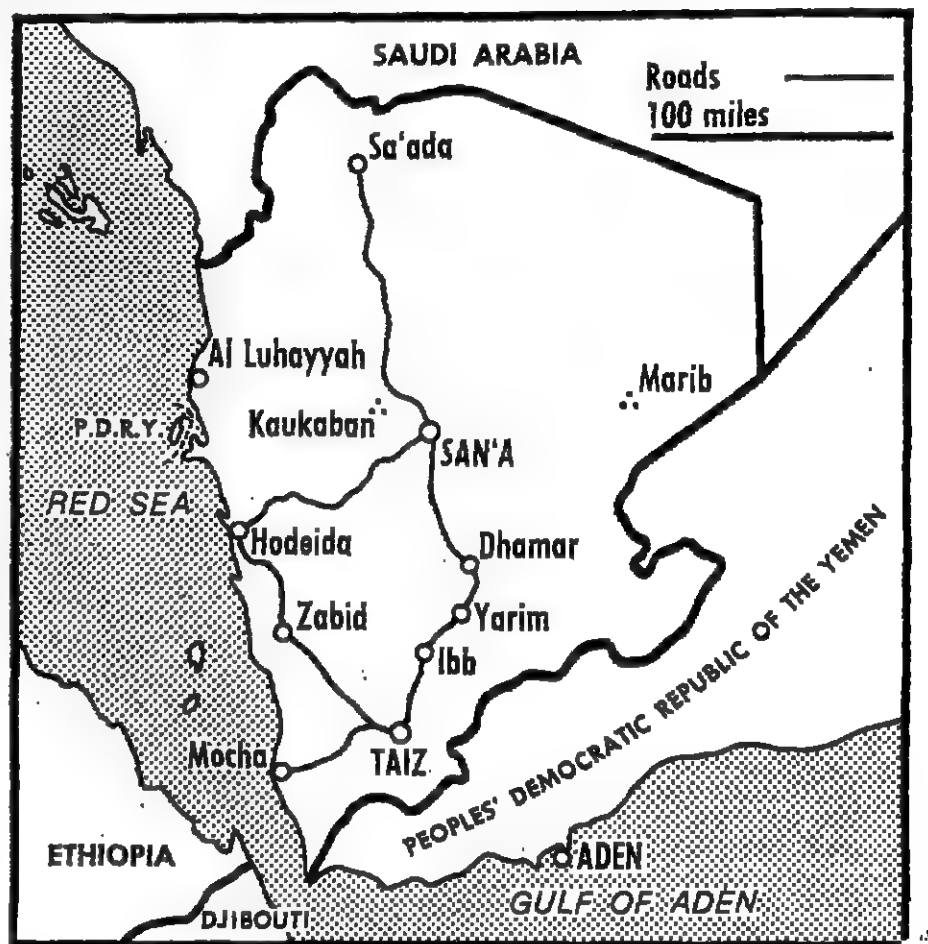
The investor is also put on his guard against using any machinery or equipment which is the subject of exemptions for any other purposes than those specifically allowed. Any violation is deemed to be an offence punishable by imprisonment of between one and six months as well as a heavy fine.

Similar penalties are provided for furnishing false information about a project. There is also an obligation for a producer to sell his product in the national market for local consumption, if a minister requires him to do so. Failure to meet the conditions and prices insisted on by the minister can also result in imprisonment or a fine.

A foreign investor is, however, entitled to dispose of his share of the production abroad—in proportion to his capital participation—but only if forcing him to do so in the local market would be unfair and result in insufficient profits.

For foreigners contemplating something short of substantial capital investment Decree 6 of 1976 deals in detail with the selling up and regulation of agencies and branches of foreign companies and commercial firms.

The author is Legal Correspondent, The Times.



Great leap forward

continued from previous page

states in order to keep their families from going hungry. Their remittances injected unimagined wealth into the village economy, acting as a further disincentive to working the land and maintaining the terraces.

As a result even eggs, chicken and other basic foodstuffs have to be imported from East Africa and else-

where. Instant coffee, ironically enough, is also imported by North Yemen, the original "home" of coffee.

Add to this the Yemenis' seemingly insatiable appetite for all consumer goods and their \$1,000m a year in remittances and you have one of the fastest-growing markets anywhere. With its far bigger population, North Yemen is potentially a bigger market than any of the

much richer but thinly populated Arab oil states.

The resulting inflationary spiral of deep concern to the Government which is urgently seeking ways of controlling it. Businessmen report a considerable tightening up in the issuing of import licences.

In the past, moreover, there have been glaring instances of importers ordering goods on a scale that the

market could never absorb. Although the appalling congestion at Hodeida, where vessels can wait anything up to 180 days to unload, acts as a brake on the flow of goods, it also helps to fuel inflation since the additional overheads are passed on to the customer.

One way that the Government is trying to curb inflation is by encouraging villagers to apply some of their

remittances to project direct communal benefits.

The Government is also seeking to stabilize the price of essentials, especially foodstuffs, by selling them at subsidized but low-profit prices. It is too early to say how effective this is proving, but it is hoped that merchants in the private sector will be forced to lower their profit margins.



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EST. 1962

Paid up Capital 10,000,000 Rials

Raised in 1977 to 100,000,000 Rials

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 1976

ASSETS	1976 Rials	1975 Rials	LIABILITIES	1976 Rials	1975 Rials
Cash and deposits with correspondents	667,727,772	252,714,223	Current and Fixed deposits	843,161,888	325,392,656
Loans, Advances and other debit accounts	568,481,210	277,792,443	Other accounts	107,967,740	106,542,002
Investments	12,425,293	10,627,493	Provisions	53,613,000	39,676,377
Fixed assets less depreciation as per details attached	16,113,233	17,094,242	Margin Deposits	188,674,171	45,240,006
	1,264,747,508	558,228,401	Authorised capital of 1 million shares (10 Rials per share-paid up in full)	10,000,000	10,000,000
			Reserves	29,348,630	20,575,917
			Balance of profit and loss	35,088,079	10,801,443
				1,264,747,508	558,228,401

CONTRA ACCOUNTS

Bills for collection, letters of credit and Letters of guarantee

1,339,388,140 498,744,480

2,604,135,648 1,056,972,881

CONTRA ACCOUNTS

Endorsed Bills for collection Letter of Credit and Letters of Guarantee

1,339,388,140 498,744,480

2,604,135,648 1,056,972,881

BRANCHES HANDLING INTERNATIONAL TRANSACTIONS

HODEIDA 2
Main Street, P.O. Box 3340,
Hodeida—Y. A. R.
Cable: YEMBANKONE/
Hodeida
Telex: 515 YEMBANK YE

Sana'a Street, P.O. Box 3097,
Hodeida—Y. A. R.
Cable: YEMBANKTWO/
Hodeida
Telex: 564 YEMBANK YE

TAIZ 2
Nasser Street, P.O. Box 4243,
Taiz—Y. A. R.
Cable: YEMBANKONE/Taiz
Telex: 507 YEMBANK YE

26 September Street,
P.O. Box 5030,
Taiz—Y. A. R.
Cable: YEMBANKTWO/Taiz
Telex: 838

SANA'A 2
26 September Street,
P.O. Box 9, Sana'a—Y. A. R.
Cable: YEMBANKONE/Sana'a
Telex: 310 328 YEMBANK YE

Abdalmoghni Street,
Sana'a—Y. A. R.
Cable: YEMBANKTWO/Sana'a
Ebb
Main Street, P.O. Box 2,
Ebb—Y. A. R.
Cable: YEMBANKONE/Ebb

هكذا هذا الاصل

Fertile soil may lead to return of former prosperity

In sharp contrast to the rest of the Arabian Peninsula, nature has blessed North Yemen with good land and abundant rainfall. Covering an estimated 75,000 sq miles, the country is dominated by mountain slopes and high plateaux which contain some of the most fertile soil in the Arab world. Here also exist some of the world's finest, terraced cultivation which earned the Yemen the title Arabia Felix in Roman times.

Like Egypt and Mesopotamia, the fertility and good climate of Yemen made it the birthplace of several ancient civilizations of great prosperity. Agriculture has always been extensively practiced. The ancestors of today's North Yemenis built probably the world's first dam at Marib, believed to be the capital of the famous Queen of Sheba, more than 3,000 years ago.

Today, agriculture still dominates North Yemen's economy. It provides the livelihood for more than 90 per cent of an estimated population of between 6,471,900 and 6,935,000 and employs more than 75 per cent of the workforce. Accounting for nearly 90 per cent of visible exports, agriculture contributes about 75 per cent of the country's gross domestic product.

About 30 per cent of North Yemen's land is believed to be cultivable. However, only about 7 per cent is actually cultivated with little or no help from modern technology. Most farms, producing staple food crops such as wheat, millet, maize and barley, are small, and agricultural insurances favour subsistence farming, with only about 10 per cent of the cultivated area used for cash crops, mostly cotton, coffee and gum.

In a normal year, about 90 per cent of the cultivated

land is rain-fed, and the rest irrigated from wells. In the agricultural heartland, rainfall reaches up to 35in a year in some areas. The dependence on rainfall means that production is prone to sharp fluctuations. Droughts can be severe, long and frequent.

The worst drought in recent years occurred between 1967 and 1970. Production was nearly halved and led to disastrous results for agriculture and the economy as a whole.

Again, a poor harvest in 1972-73 led to a sharp increase in food imports, which accounted for nearly 50 per cent of North Yemen's import bill in that season.

However, in 1975 grain output increased by 40 per cent to a record level of more than two million tons. This was said to have brought self-sufficiency in most cereals for the first time in recent years. But with a rapid increase in its population and disposable income and with unpredictable weather, North Yemen could again find itself dependent on imported food.

Cotton, which now accounts for just over 1 per cent of cultivated land, is gradually becoming an important export crop. Of fine and long-staple quality, cotton is by far the biggest export. Increased income and with unpredictable weather, North Yemen could again find itself dependent on imported food.

But because of fluctuations in water supplies and sluggish world demand, cotton exports fell sharply from the record of 35.8m bales in 1974 to 26.7m in 1975 and to only 11.7m in 1976. However, world demand and prices have begun to pick up this year and cotton sales have already reached a record of 27.5m bales in the first quarter. The country is now planning to boost its textile production by 1981 to 22,400,000 metres. North Yemen's second biggest crop export is coffee. Despite its high quality

it is rain-fed, and the rest irrigated from wells. In the agricultural heartland, rainfall reaches up to 35in a year in some areas. The dependence on rainfall means that production is prone to sharp fluctuations. Droughts can be severe, long and frequent.

The highland areas and the Tihama region also produce fruit and vegetables including citrus fruits, apricots, grapes, peaches, tomatoes, watermelon and pineapples which find a ready market in the country's largest towns, Sana'a, Taiz and Hodeida. Dates and tobacco are produced in Tihama and, together with cotton, these crops provide the basis for an agricultural industry in the plain.

Livestock, which is also prone to serious droughts, numbered 1,100,000 head of cattle, sheep, goats, camels and other animals in 1973. Hides and skins now provide a profitable export. These, amounting to nearly 7m bales, became the second biggest export in 1976, replacing coffee for the first time.

North Yemen's agricultural growth was at best stagnant up to 1973 when it began to increase at an average of 5 per cent a year as the result of an agricultural investment of 138m rials, about 15 per cent of total investment expenditure, under the country's 935m rials three-year plan.

The new 16,500m rials five-year plan to 1982, launched in June, has allocated 2,600m rials for agriculture development, which is expected to grow at 5.5 per cent a year.

Priority has been given to increasing irrigated land by 30 per cent over the next five years. The biggest project is a \$17.5m irrigation scheme to develop 60,000 hectares in the Tihama plain which will double cotton and vegetable output.

The scheme is financed by the World Bank's affiliate, the International Development Agency, the United States Agency for International Development and the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development.

Other big projects include a poultry farm financed by a grant from the United States Agency for International Development, a \$20m nine-year development programme, financed by IDA and the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, and a \$20m project to help about

120,000 farmers in 1bb and Taiz. Another scheme to develop 20,000 to 30,000 hectares of irrigated land in Wadi Sardud for cotton, grain and livestock fodder as well as for fruit and vegetables is being designed by the British civil engineering consultants, Sir William Halcrow & Partners, under a contract won in August 1976. The scheme, to develop both surface and underground water supplies, will be financed by Saudi Arabia and Abu Dhabi.

The IDA is also financing two other projects, one costing \$5m to develop livestock and the other a \$5.2m to build three grain storage silos at Hodeida, Sana'a and Taiz as part of a \$15m scheme designed by Oscar Faber & Partners of Britain.

To help farmers to modernize their methods by using tractors and machinery, an Agricultural Credit Bank with a paid-up capital of 20m rials was set up in Sana'a late last year to provide "soft" loans to farmers.

North Yemen's planners estimate that by 1981, agricultural development will boost fertilizer consumption by 285 per cent; insecticides by 412 per cent and tractors by 216 per cent.

Among other crops to be increased substantially will be wheat, which should increase by 145 per cent by 1981, vegetables, by 373 per cent, and potatoes, by 373 per cent.

But the obstacles to the success of such ambitious schemes are great. Apart from droughts, the introduction of much of the programmes will depend on the ability of North Yemen's organizational and public services resources to cope and on the availability of skilled and unskilled workers in rural areas.

With its fertile soil, good climate and with the changing of its feudal system of land tenure, North Yemen's development efforts may to cover its former agricultural prosperity.

A. S.

Copper finds lift hopes for other minerals

Late in August it was announced in Sana'a that North Yemen could become one of the largest producers in the world of copper ore within the next few years. Recent copper finds in Humura and in Al-Baida near the border with South Yemen, reported to the Government by a team of international geologists, could boost considerably North Yemen's foreign exchange.

Demand for copper has been increasing steadily and prices are rising sharply. On the London metal market copper prices in recent months were closing at \$715 to \$720 a tonne.

Large quantities of iron ore of commercial value were reported to have been discovered in Sana'a, north-west of Sana'a, and at Al-Baida. These were reported to be enough to meet North Yemen's domestic requirement for at least 200 years.

Several other geological surveys were carried out in recent years by West German, British, Romanian, Chinese, and Soviet firms.

Preliminary exploration for metallic and industrial minerals has so far indicated the presence of various other deposits, including silver, gold, titanium, uranium, lead, zinc, mercury, sulphur and marble. Deposits of coal are also known to exist near Taiz.

Despite those reports little has been done to exploit these minerals, because of a lack of money to support such large investments and shortage of domestic technical and managerial skills.

The development of these minerals for export would also require marketing skills, transport and efficient ports which are inadequate and will continue

to be so for several years. Prospecting for oil in North Yemen began in 1923 and has been intense in the past four years. Unlike metallic and industrial minerals, however, no oil in commercial quantities has yet been found.

In September 1976 an announcement of the country's first offshore find was expected but no news emerged. In December rumours were again circulating in Sana'a that an offshore oil strike would be announced in January 1977, but the prospect of development based on oil has again receded.

The first well to be drilled in North Yemen, by Yemen Shell Exploration, a company registered in Hamburg, proved negative. Drilling was stopped in December because it could not go beyond a depth of 5,000 ft because of high temperatures.

Another West German company, Deutsche Shell, has also stopped its offshore drilling in the same month in its concession in the Red Sea.

Supplies were easier to come by, however, after Kuwait agreed in February 1976, to provide 250,000 tons of refined petroleum products over three years. Saudi Arabia was said to have agreed in August 1975, to finance a proposed \$180m oil refinery in North Yemen of a capacity of 500,000 tons, but little has been said about it since.

Of all mineral developments in North Yemen, extraction of rock salt has been the most successful, but it has been difficult to sell.

The salt deposits are estimated to contain more than 25 million tons of good quality salt.

They are near deep-water loading facilities and that, together with access for open-pit mining, could make it a competitive source of salt for chemical use. Output reached about 100,000 tons a year in the 1960s but capacity was boosted to about 400,000 tons a year after the Kuwaiti Fund for

part of the North Yemen Arab Economic Development provided \$400,000 to help to finance the expansion of salt production. The port of Salaf, originally developed to export salt, capacity was later increased to a million tons with second loan of \$1,200,000 from KFAED.

Until the summer of 1976, nearly all extracted salt was exported to Japan at the rate of about 80,000 tons a year, with a peak of 107,500 tons in 1966. Salt exports ceased in 1972 because the sharp fall in world demand and because of Japanese ban on salt imports after allegations that it was used for industrial purposes caused pollution.

The ban by Japan led to disputes between the two countries, and a partial ban on Japanese imports in North Yemen, worth \$12m in 1966 and \$70m in 1975, was temporarily imposed in November 1975. Left with a million tons of salt a year to sell, North Yemen has been trying to find other outlets, though hopes Japan will review its position.

The salt mines are expected to start production this year, after being closed for five years, after a market survey by O. W. Roskill Industrial Consultants, London, commissioned March by the United Nations Development Programme for the Yemen Salt Mining Corporation. Yemen salt, expected to be marketed at competitive prices, will now go to other markets, including the Soviet Union and North Korea.

According to United Nations estimate, salt could fetch \$2.3m by 1980 compared with only \$400,000 in 1970.

However, it is still uncertain whether North Yemen will be able to sell all its available output in view of strong competition from Mexico and the growing suppliers of Western Australia.

The author is on the staff of the Middle East Economic Digest.

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Drilling stops despite foreign offers

Drilling stops despite foreign offers

Port congestion takes a heavy toll and delays projects

by John Whelan

North Yemen is paying a heavy price for having the world's second most congested port. The 160 days wait for conventional cargo ships off Hodeida is delaying contractors' mobilisation on important projects. The congestion surcharges are also forcing up the cost of tenders, because construction materials have to be carried on expensive roll-on roll-off vessels.

The Yemen Ports and Marine Affairs Corporation which runs Hodeida and the two other ports of Mocha

and Salaf is evaluating an offer by the British engineering consultants, Sir William Halcrow & Partners, to advise on developing the facilities of Mocha and Hodeida. Gray Mackenzie, part of the Inchcape Group, is reportedly interested in managing the port along the lines which have proved successful at Jiddah. Earlier interest in advising at Hodeida was expressed by the experienced British consultants, Rendel Palmer and Tritton.

Despite that interest and a \$60m World Bank loan in May to help finance a port development project, Hodeida is likely to remain congested for the foreseeable future. The port has a 24-hour turn around, 400 metres of quay and

three berths, one of six metres depth and two of 8.5 metres.

The controlling draught is that of the 23ft access channel, which in practice means no ships can dock which are larger than about 12,000 gross registered tons or 523ft long. According to Cusack Arabians Middle East Lines (Camel), Britain's some converted oil tankers are berthing carrying grain. Hodeida also has a dolphin berth with a submarine cable for unloading petroleum products.

The aptitude of the dock labour force is less of a drawback than the lack of skilled supervision and modern unloading gear. This is itself an encouraging sign, as it is encouraging ship-owners to bank on the eventual clearance of the port.

The question is how soon. In the meantime exporters are deriving a number of ingenious trans-shipment routes. Mocha, which is the port of the southern city of Taiz, has its supporters but the jetty is small, of uncertain depth and most unloading is by barge. Salaf has one berth which was used for exporting salt. The Yemen Salt Mining Corporation hopes to start production later this year, following the completion of a market survey by O. W. Roskill Industrial Consultants of Britain.

The latest port development plans, for which Halcrow is bidding, exclude Salaf and that is not a promising indicator. Some cargo is getting into the

country by sea-shipment to coasters at Aden. Many shippers are also enthusiastic about trans-shipment through Djibouti. The Ethiopian port of Assab is nearer geographically to Hodeida but it is under pressure because of Ethiopia's military situation. On October 17 a 30 per cent surcharge was introduced. At Aden there is apparently no political difficulty in trans-shipment to the north, though documentation has to be done with care.

Few freight forwarders mention land transport to North Yemen with any enthusiasm. Indeed some talk about insurrections and bandits blocking the road to the north, and the road north of Sana'a is poor.

What the contractors

must face is that container and roll-on roll-off services are the only answer for the time being. Even between Hodeida and Sana'a the road cannot carry containers larger than 20ft. Prices are high. Camel quotes to dock at Hodeida at \$3,300 for a 20ft container and is running in every 10 days.

Other services are offered out of Marseilles, and from Britain by Argyris Line of Greece. Camel is considering introducing through bills to Sana'a and Taiz from Britain for 20ft containers. The maximum delay on its 10 shipments since the service started has been one day of 24 hours largely because of documentation.

The congestion has spawned at least one unorthodox solution. A United States company was proposing to start unloading at Hodeida by air balloon on October 8. Lightspeed and Underworld of New York is in a joint venture with the Yemeni Marketing International Company (Yemico) whose partners are Moussafah Kassim and Mohammad Aamer. Its Skyhook System is said to be able to unload at the rate of 50 to 80 tons an hour, although that figure is greeted with some scepticism by a British company specializing in lighter than air technology, Aerospace Developments Ltd.

The Skyhook will be established at the entrance to Hodeida port and customers will pay \$15 to \$20 a ton for cargo to be unloaded. The irony is that the start

has been delayed because vital components for the Skyhook are waiting at Hodeida in the port congestion.

Balloon unloading is unlikely to provide a long-term solution. Experiments with helicopters for unloading cement at Jiddah last year were discontinued because of the expense.

All the pressure must now be on the Government to clear the port and increase berthing. In the meantime the Yemenis and the international agencies financing development will have to pay the price of having the world's second most congested port.

The author is on the staff of the Middle East Economic Digest.

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OUTLOOK OF DEVELOPMENT IN

By Mohammed Salem Basindwa, Minister of Development and

The Yemen Arab Republic with less than 7 million inhabitants on an area of about 200 thousand m², belongs to the handful of least developed countries in the world. Several geographic and political factors, particularly the mountainous nature, the Imam-Regime before the revolution of the 26th of September, 1962, and the civil-war till the early seventies, imposed on the country a severe isolation from the rest of the world and an isolation of the areas from each other, within the country as well. In fact, the 13th of June, 1974, the date of the Correction Movement under the leadership of President Ibrahim Al-Hamdi, is to be considered a principal historic turning point in the life of the country. This date marked the line between isolation and open doors and between economic stagnation and the development dynamics.



H.E. Mr. Mohammed Salem Basindwa, Minister of Development and Chairman of the Central Planning Organisation.

When the country started to open its eyes on the modern culture, it found itself in confrontation with fundamental difficulties and bottlenecks. Notwithstanding the existence of the inherited traditional culture, which is based on wonderful terraces and water systems existing since thousands of years, and the multi-storey buildings standing on tops and summits, this culture was based on manual work and a primitive technology. All the fundamentals of the modern cultures, particularly the physical infrastructure and the qualified human resources, were almost non-existent. Agriculture depends on rainfall, the livestock is degenerated, industry is primitive and manual, and even the cities were in urgent need of clean drinking water, electricity and sewerage, whereas several diseases dominated the country heavily, like tuberculosis, malaria and berhazia, and the juridical and education system has not changed much since about 14 centuries.

Notwithstanding the important development during the last few years, the main bottleneck is still the infrastructure. Roads and ports are weak and unable to meet the needs of development, the skilled labour is rare and the migration of labourers is leading to a shortage even in unskilled labour. Particularly the institutions and leading personnel which should be responsible for planning and monitoring development and project implementation, are forming the main shortage.

One of the criteria of underdevelopment is the domination of agriculture in the economy, whereas it is characterized by poor technology and low productivity. Additionally the G.D.P. per capita is about \$113 (at constant prices of 1971/72, or \$237 at current prices). The final consumption is higher than the G.D.P., the G.D.P. per worker is about \$519, and a worker has—on average—to provide consumption for an addi-

tional three persons. The life expectancy at birth is less than 36 years for males and about 38 years for females. Infant mortality is estimated at 26% for males and 22% for females. There is on average one physician for every 41,000 of the population, one dentist for every 317,000 and one pharmacist for every 216,000. Per-capita electricity consumption is about the equivalent of 13kg of coal per annum.

Since the country moved towards open-doors policy and development within the system of free market economy, foreign loans and aids started to flow into the country and to contribute considerably to its development. They are estimated at about YR 515 Million in the last year, which is about 75% of the development expenditures of the government and the public and mixed sectors. Also the remittances from the Yemeni workers abroad provide the country with about 50 million \$ per month. Thus they are the main resource of foreign exchange and give the YR a strong position in the exchange market, but they are creating liquidity, which is making demand pressure on the market. The latter in its turn is not elastic, mainly due to the shortage of ports capacity and to the limited production capability. This is reflected in domestic inflation, added to the imported one. There is also the fact that this liquidity is in the hands of the citizens and that the government resources are insufficient for developing a strong public sector. This resulted in the policy of mobilization of the private resources—assisted and supported by the government—to create and enlarge the mixed sector, based on joint venture. This policy is supplemented by the support of joint venture with foreign capital, the idea of management agreements with foreign firms and by the adoption of the methods of fast implementation of the projects like the turn-key method, direct contract negotiations, the invitation of offers without detailed performance specifications, etc. To encourage foreign and national investments in the country, the government issued an investment law last year. This law gives guarantees against confiscation and nationalization and includes several incentives like tax exemptions, etc..

In June, 1977, the government announced the first Five-Year Development Plan for the fiscal years 1976/77-1980/81. This period should form a sort of first stage towards the self-reliance on the part of the country in financing development and in the implementation of the construction part of the investments. To the Plan's main general goals belong the establishing of an



The teaching of Koran in the main mosque, Sanaa.

Past and planned growth of G.D.P.

Sector	ANNUAL AVERAGE RATE OF GROWTH OF REAL GDP					
	GDP at Constant Prices of Base Year					
	68/76-75/76 actual %	72/73-75/76 actual %	76/77-80/81 planned %	Base year 75/76 Mill. YR	75/76 %	80/81 %
Agriculture	6.6	4.9	5.5	2305	44.5	39.2
Industry	11.8	8.6	11.7	302	5.8	6.8
Building & Construction ..	8.0	5.2	14.4	227	4.4	5.8
Transport & Communication ..	12.0	8.0	11.3	151	2.9	3.4
Trade	70.0	10.4	10.1	1220	23.6	25.7
Finance	29.9	35.4	9.5	141	2.7	2.9
Real Estate	3.2	3.0	3.6	199	3.8	3.1
Government Services	10.5	11.0	10.0	509	9.8	10.7
Other Services	7.1	7.1	7.5	127	2.5	2.4
TOTAL	7.7	7.0	8.2	5181	100	100

It is worth mentioning that the investment programme of the Government and existing public and mixed sectors include additional allocations consisting of about YR2.1 Billion and considered as incentive allocations for the projects. The sums shown in the above table are the real investments expected. Thus the investment programme will be about YR10.4 Billions.

On the other hand the investments consisting of YR 15971 Mill fixed capital formation and YR579 Mill. increase in stock are planned as follows:—

Distribution of investments by sectors of economic activity and socio-economic sectors

Socio-economic Sectors/ Sectors of economic activity	Government & existing public & mixed Sector	Cooperative Sector	New mixed projects identified	Public Sector not identified projects	Private Sector not identified projects	Total Investments
Agriculture	1086	2	—	208	—	980
Mining & Quarrying	79	—	—	75	—	20
Manufacturing	374	—	941	83	315	285
Electrics & Water	1159	103	—	61	—	50
Construction	33	43	50	200	—	125
Trade	130	7	11	89	—	391
Transport & Communication ..	3360	615	67	283	—	600
Finance	25	—	55	—	—	13
Real Estate	150	—	220	—	—	1720
Government Services	1610	—	—	—	—	1610
Other Services	—	331	—	—	—	22
Subtotal Fixed Capital Formation	8006	1104	1344	999	315	4206
Increase in Stock	129	25	80	70	15	260
Total Investments	8135	1126	1424	1669	330	4466

infrastructure for the economy and breaking the isolation of areas, developing construction capacity, strengthening education and training, particularly the medium-level staff, and strengthening the health care services. The Plan concentrates the efforts on studying the mineral and water resources, in industrialization (mainly of local raw materials), moving towards any possible self-sufficiency in food, agricultural products and building materials. One of the main general goals is the establishing of a modern state, able to ensure security and to lead and monitor development.

To the main strategies belong the concentration on increasing productivity, selec-

tion of capital, intensive technology, commodity wise integration of the productive sectors, the use of incentives, the creating of a new formula for integration, and the co-operation between the socio-economic sectors: i.e., government, public, mixed and private sectors, and the Yemeni and Arab integration.

As a result of many targets for increasing the production of individual goods and services, of inter-relations between investments and increases of value added and of reflections of the growth in a sector on the other—particularly the effect of increased import on transport activity, and the effect of investments on growth in construction—and

THE YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

Chairman of the Central Planning Organisation of Y.A.R.

In the light of the capability of the country to meet the material, financial and labour requirements, the investments of the Plan were estimated at YR 16.6 billions (1\$=YR4.55). The average annual rate of growth of G.D.P. was estimated at 8.2% and of G.D.P. per capita at 6.1% since population rate of growth was estimated at about 1.9%.

The following table provides a picture of the actual and planned growth of G.D.P. and the structural changes.

The Fixed capital Formation is consisting of the following components:

1—Construction: YR6.2 Bill. or 38.6%

2—Buildings: YR4.6 Bill. or 28.9%
3—Machinery & Equipment: YR4.7 Bill. or 29.4%
4—Others: YR0.5 Bill. or 3.1%

As far as Capital Output Ratio is concerned It is estimated to increase gradually from 2.8/1 in the Base Year to 8.8/1 in the fifth year forming an average of 6.4/1 during the Plan period. This is due to concentration on capital intensive investments.

As the increase in stock is financed by the current Budgets, the Fixed Capital Formation will be financed as follows:

Financial resources of fixed capital formation

Socio-economic Sectors/ Financial Resources	Government Sector	Existing public & mixed sector	Cooperative Sector	New mixed Sector	Private Sector	TOTAL
Government	1750	250	268	381	—	2649
Self-financing	25	375	411	225	73	1109
Citizens	25	25	402	900	4005	5357
Commercial Banks	—	50	—	90	110	250
Subtotal: Internal Resources	1800	700	1081	1596	4188	9365
External loans, committed ..	700	900	—	16	—	1616
External loans under negotiation	1100	300	—	123	—	1523
Foreign aids committed	790	10	—	3	—	803
Foreign Aids under negotiation	360	40	—	—	—	400
Loans & aids needed	650	650	20	205	100	1625
Equity	—	6	—	400	233	639
Subtotal: External Resources	3600	1906	20	747	333	6606
Grand Total	5400	2606	1101	2343	4521	15975

It is obvious that the external resources for the whole Plan are about 41.2% whereas for the government, public and existing mixed Sectors they will be about 68.8%.

This table shows that the government's obligations towards the projects will be YR2,649 Millions. Taking into consideration the repayment of foreign loans, the obligations will be YR2,750 Millions.

The Government plans to eliminate the deficit in the current expenditures in the first year and achieve a surplus, which will be used for development. This will amount to YR430 Millions during the Plan period. Cash grants amounting to YR1.8 Billion and capital resources, external cash loans, loans from the Monetary System, investment loans and the use of the resources, amounting to YR520 Millions all together, will cover the rest of the Government's obligations.

As far as foreign trade is concerned, the import of consumer goods will grow at

an annual average of 9.5%, for goods of intermediate consumption about 14.6% per annum, whereas the import of capital goods will grow at an annual average of 88.3%. This high rate is due to the small size of this category in the base year.

On the other hand, the export of goods which amounts to only YR55 Millions in the Base Year will grow at about 12.2% annually.

The foreign trade deficit is estimated at about YR18,148 Millions during the Plan period. A part of this deficit, i.e., about YR1,598 Millions, will be covered by the surplus of exchange of services with the rest of the world, but the main part of the deficit will be covered by the net private and public transfers, in cash and in kind, amounting to about YR13,830 Millions. Thus the deficit in the current account will be about YR2,720 Millions. The net external borrowing will meet this deficit and create a theoretical surplus in the balance of payment amounting to about YR1,358 Millions.

The Plan foresees that the public consumption will increase at an annual rate of 10%, whereas the consumption of households will increase gradually, starting by 4.1% in the Base Year reaching the rate of 7.3% in the fifth year, and making an average of 5.9%. Since the total final consumption in the Base Year is higher than the G.D.P., the saving from the Gross Domestic product is, therefore, negative. It is planned that this concept of saving will be nil in the third year and starts to increase, so that the algebraic total of it during the Plan period will be nil also.

The net saving out of NDP will be nil in the last year of the Plan. On the other hand, the saving out of National resources, i.e., G.N.P. is planned to increase by an average rate of growth of 7.6% per annum, so that the share of final consumption from GNP decreases gradually from 71.1% in the first year to about 69.9% in the last year.

Furthermore, it is estimated that the total number of workers being about 1,166,000 in the Base Year, will increase by 101,000 in 1980/81, taking the external migration into consideration. This increase will be at about 1.7% annually. Thus the productivity measured at real G.D.P. per worker will increase from YR4,444 in the Base Year to YR6,054 in 1980/81, i.e., 36.2% or 6.4% per annum, thereof 4.9% in the agriculture, 6.4% in industry, and 6.0% in construction.

The Plan includes about 460 identified Projects in all Sectors, some of them are in the form of integrated or condensed programmes, i.e., the projects for crops development, dams and valleys development, integrated rural development, agro-industries, livestock development, the industrialization projects, rural water supply, water and sewerage and town planning, electrification, geophysical survey, ports development, roads network, vocational training, health care programmes, etc.

The list below includes the most important projects, and the expenditures planned for them during the five years (in YR Millions):

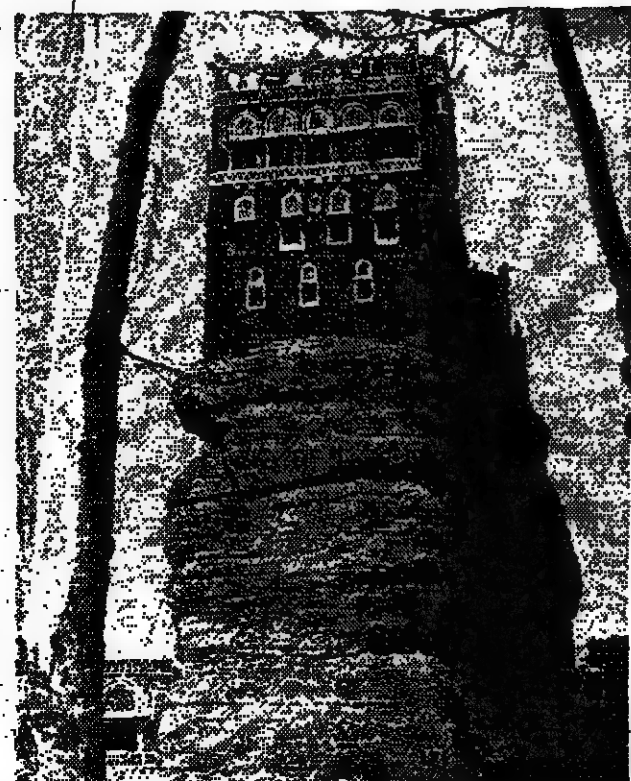
1—Seeds and Crops developments	70.0	43—Expansion of TV net-work and stations	53.3
2—Six projects for extentional and research services	85.7	44—Broadcasting station	28.7
3—Six projects for integrated rural development	190.6	45—Hodeidah Port development	204.0
4—Ma'rab dam	105.0	46—Floating berth in Ras-el-Kattheeb	35.0
5—Study of water resources and well's drilling	24.9	47—Expansion of Sana'a Airport	173.4
6—Development of six valleys in Tihama	477.4	48—Expansion of Taiz Airport	216.7
7—Development of six other valleys	84.9	49—Hodeidah Airport	150.0
8—Small dams and maintenance of terraces	13.0	50—Local Airports development	12.0
9—Livestock development	121.6	51—Aircrafts	329.5
10—Four projects for chicken and eggs	97.6	52—Land Transport Company	67.5
11—Shrimps manufacturing	22.5	53—Government Central Estate	150.0
12—Three fishing ports	40.0	54—Government's estates and centres in districts	41.7
13—Minerals investigation	51.9	55—Central workshop for, maintenance	51.5
14—Salt manufacturing	10.7	56—Real Estate's Bank	50.0
15—Spinning factory in Hodeidah	47.5	57—Hamdi's Housing City	220.0
16—Wool textile in Dhamar	66.0	58—Labourers Housing City	152.0
17—Expansion of textile factory in Sana'a	65.0	59—Primary, preparatory and teachers' schools (government)	286.22
18—Tricot factory in Dhamar	13.5	60—Schools (cooperatives)	267.9
19—Expansion of Cement factory in Baghel	120.0	61—Secondary and commercial schools	60.6
20—Cement factory in Amran	314.0	62—Vocational training centres and schools	110.3
21—Industrial Estate	90.6	63—Informal education centres	23.3
22—Central Printing Press	14.0	64—Sana'a University	107.8
23—Paper factory	137.5	65—Scientific (religious) schools	27.8
24—Fertilizer mixing factory	24.0	66—Programmes for labourers' training	27.3
25—Rolling Mill and foundry	169.3	67—Basic health care centres (government)	29.5
26—Sixty identified projects for light industries of the private sector	315.0	68—Health centres (cooperatives)	57.5
27—Central electricity generator	271.2	69—Vaccination programme and fighting of diseases	37.0
28—High tension transformer lines	171.7	70—Hospitals (new and old)	129.6
29—Strengthening of Generation and Nets in main cities	200.4	71—Sana'a Sport City	60.0
30—Rural electrification projects	154.2	72—Sana'a Museum	29.1
31—Water and sewerage of five cities	463.7	73—Tourism estates and development of tourism areas	17.4
32—Rural water supply project (government)	190.5	74—Tribunal buildings	44.1
33—Rural water supply project (cooperatives)	102.9	75—Feasibility studies	50.0
34—Central markets	15.0		
35—Roads projects (government)	3,826.0		
36—Roads projects (cooperatives)	615.3		
37—Contractor company	50.0		
38—Grain storage and bakeries	79.2		
39—Petroleum storage	100.0		
40—Petroleum pipelines	150.0		
41—Telephone exchange	220.0		
42—Telephone nets development	65.4		

Finally, it is worth mentioning that the Government of the Yemen Arab Republic decided to organize a "Yemen Development Conference" in late November to discuss this plan. All international Organizations, Banks and Funds and some multinational companies will be invited to attend this conference.

These two pages have been prepared, contributed and paid for by the Ministry of Development and the Central Planning Organisation of the Yemen Arab Republic.



Lt. Col. Ahmed Hussein Al Ghashmi, Chairman of the Command Council and Chief of the Staff of the Yemen Armed Forces.



"Dar Al Haggar" or the House on the Rock, Sana'a.

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Colourful surprise on a rocky hillside

by F. Nigel Hepper

People often find it difficult to imagine any plant life existing anywhere on the Arabian Peninsula. At first sight North Yemen, too, appears to be a barren wilderness, yet many different plants have been recorded by the few botanists who have worked there.

This is because part of the country attracts exceptional rainfall for the peninsula, since it lies within the tropics and has a massive mountain escarpment up to 12,000ft high. Even the casual visitor will notice the diversity of plant life: from the coastal desert to sands of cactus-like succulents and high altitude rock plants.

It so happens that the newly constructed all-weather road that visitors are likely to drive along passes through most of the different regions. However, the road from Sana'a airport to the city crosses some of the least interesting mountainous plains at 7,200ft and, unless one happens to be there after rain, few plants will be evident, except the odd acacia tree, outside walled fig and almond orchards, and tamarisk bushes along the wadi.

Northwards there is even drier, more rugged country, and to the east, beyond Marib, lies the Empty Quarter.

But from Sana'a one can head westwards down the spectacular mountain road to the coast, or southwards to Taiz about 150 miles away by way of a much higher summer rainfall region.

Taking the Taiz route one passes across the treeless mountainous plains which are intensively cultivated with barley, wheat and durra, the sorghum grain from tropical Africa.

The disturbed roadside verges are infested with colourful prickly weeds which deter the ubiquitous sheep and goats. Even field crows and sheep's heads occur at weeds of cultivation, as does the ancestor of the garden marigold.

Stop on any rocky hillside and you will be surprised at the number of different plants making use of any crevice for their roots and protection from animals. The pin cushion pink *Dianthus pugilatus* is common and would ornament any rock garden if it could be established.

The mountain road at 9,000ft over the Sumara Pass is exciting, not only for the grandeur of its scenery, but for the wealth of its plants. Blue *Cam-*

panula edulis trails down the cliffs, while red flowered spiky aloes perch on narrow ledges. Succulent *Isotria medeoloides* and others are there too, and yellow spires of grey-leaved multi-stemmed *Chamaecrista* occur by the road.

Streams are frequent in the mountains, although often as mere trickles or residual pools in precipitous falls where the yellow *Primula verticillata* is characteristic species. This *Primula* plant has a distribution across to Ethiopia and it is a parent of the hybrid *Primula kewensis* grown in British greenhouses.

In swards of grasses and sedges where water pools it is even possible to find the small orchid *Epipactis atrorubra*. All this is very unlike the popular concept of the Arabian Peninsula and it was for this reason that the Yemen was known as Arabia Felix—the Happy Arabia.

Cultivation is possible because of the rainfall which is carefully used on the level terraces that have been cleverly built up the mountain sides. The high remaining walls, however, provide useful habitats for wild plants. Rounded bushes of the Abyssinian rose with its delicate white flowers and the daisy-like *Geranium* are common. The prickly, leguminous shrub *Pteroc-*

blum stellatum dot the hill-sides. Between the stones of the walls hide various ferns, such as *Chelidonium* and the similar *Ceterach*—off-cinamum. Although I am not a fern enthusiast, I was amazed to find so many ferns in the Yemen since they occur in a wide range of habitats. Not only different species, but large numbers occur in favourable habitats.

At the end of the rainy season the terrace wall tops are gay with the yellow daisy *Guzmania scabra*, the pink *Pennisetum lanceolatum* and scarlet dock *Polygonum nervosum*.

As the Taiz road descends from the Ibb summit below the incidence of frost more tropical species increase in frequency, especially the succulent *Euphorbia*. In former days the broad valley north-east of Taiz must have been a thick carpet of succulent euphorbia which will cover much of the rocky hills.

There are a couple of tree species, *Euphorbia ammak* and *E. pauciflora*, which always occur at scattered individuals. The thickets are composed of several species 3ft or 4ft in height with *E. cactus* appropriately named, where each afternoon men gather for *qat*-chewing sessions when they stuff leaf

angular-stemmed shrubs and after leaf into an ever increasing cloud. At the foot of the mountains still grow some of the myrrh and balsam bushes reminding us of the ancient spice road not far away. There the camel caravans carried the spices of Shaba and frankincense resin from trees in southern Arabia heading north for the cities of the classical world.

Down the mountain wadis rush dangerous torrents during the rainy season. But once past the escarpment most of the water is lost in the desert of the 20-mile wide coastal plain and little reaches the sea.

This desert is the Thama where the vegetation, such as it is, is similar to that on the other side of the Red Sea. Parts of it are of dunes with tussocks of a prickly grass, while clumps of the branched down palms and date palms grow near the sea and acacias line the dry wadis.

Yet, because of the intense heat and blowing sand, one may be forgiven for imagining the yellow primula beside the trickling mountain stream to be half a world away.

The author is a principal scientific officer and an assistant keeper in the herbarium, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

Mountainous land may plume itself on a variety of birdlife

by Hugo Haig-Thomas

travel south to the former capital, Taiz, then continue to Zabid in the hot coastal plain, the Thama.

In the gardens of Sana'a one can see the ubiquitous house sparrow, common bulbul, hoopoes, laughing plovers and at the right time of year, golden orioles. Flying overhead are black kites, *Nyctalus* and *Nyctalus*, which are brown, not black.

They are common in Asia and Africa and are usually found near settlements where they scavenge off refuse.

In Sana'a black kites often sit sunning themselves high up on the tall Yemeni houses, their wings outstretched in a heraldic posture. In the evenings, two hours before sunset, a hundred or more can be seen rising on the thermal air, circling high over the city before roosting.

Before leaving Sana'a, one should visit Haddah, a leafy village a couple of miles south of the city. Here the beautiful violet-backed magpie, *Cyanopicus leucogaster*, is seen. It nests in the tall fig trees.

The male is a metallic

violet plum colour with brilliant white chest and tail coverts. The Palestinian warbler, *Sylvia curruca*, fits into the shrubs like an ant-eater green jewel.

Other songbirds found in Yemen are the Abyssinian ambird, the purple ambird and the exquisite pygmy sunbird with its green, violet and yellow plumage and long tail.

Close to Sana'a is Wadi Dahr, flanked by steep rocky cliffs. Here *Trichostema* grackles, a member of the starling family, is found. It looks like a glossy blackbird but has bright chestnut patches under each wing, particularly conspicuous during flight. It is a gregarious bird, living in small flocks and ravines, and has an eerie melancholy cry which *Melospiza* has described as "a wild, weird, like its surroundings".

Heading south to Taiz, one first passes through the fertile *Montana* Plains, where the colourful *Abdim's* stork, perched on the round stone towers, sheds the spectacular *Sumatra* Pass is reached where lamangiers soar.

The hammerhead drops

bones from a great height to split them open to expose the marrow.

Other vultures found in the mountainous regions are the griffon and Rüppell's vulture. In the Thama the Egyptian vulture has a fascinating method of using stones to break open eggs.

There are many different wheatears in Yemen but perhaps the black and white hooded wheatear is the most noticeable. Other roadside birds frequently seen are the charming little cinnamon-breasted rock bunting with their striped faces, and the grey-headed rock scorpion.

From Taiz to Zabid at first the scenery is hilly, lush and tropical. Strung along the telegraph wires are the round grass nests of Rüppell's weaver, *Ploceus guile*, and perching on the poles is the chanting goshawk, *Melospiza* *metator*, a handsome grey bird with finely barred underparts and scabrous red legs and dark red eyes. In the breeding season it utters a series of melodious whistles hour after hour.

The hammerhead drops

Other raptors, of which there are many, include the Batelaur eagle, easily recognizable in flight by its square body and long black and white pointed wings, shaped like an archer's bow. The tawny eagle is also common and with luck the osprey is sometimes seen.

Having long puzzled over the hammerhead, a strange bird, ornithologists have eventually put it into a family of its own. Brown, rather scork-like and about the size of a large duck, the bird's pointed crest mirrors its beak, giving it the appearance of a hammer.

It is often missed because it waddles clumsily beside a stream and it can be approached to within yards before it flies off on slow measured wingbeats. Its nest is a large structure, two yards high and a yard and a half across, usually built in the fork of a tree.

In the Thama the countryside is reminiscent of north-east Africa, with date palms and scrubby acacia trees. Sea-eaters, strikes and vivid European, Abyssinian and black-breasted rollers are seen there.

The coast is rich in bird-life and the areas around Al-Khawkhah and Al-Fazah near Zabid are especially interesting. Among the wide range of aquatic and shore birds are white pelicans, spoonbills, avocets and even the greater flamingo.

Black-winged stilts are found, which have ridiculously long legs like red kiting-necked, and also flocks of crab plover, named after their favourite food which they crack open with their heavy bills.

Seven species of tern have been recorded and also the African skimmer, *Rynchops flustris*.

Resembling large terns, skimmers derive their name from their unusual method of feeding. They skim just above unrippled water and with the much longer lower mandible of the opened beak just below the surface, scoop in fish and other small creatures.

There is still much to discover about birdlife in Yemen. The Yemeni serin, *Serinus merachensis*, and the Yemeni linnet, *Carduelis peninsularis*, are two species seen before. And does the bald ibis nest in Yemen?

Local herbs add stimulus to cookery

by Ann Smith

Yemeni cuisine is simple in general, with cereals being the staple diet. Meat and milk dishes have always been important. Vegetables used to be a rare commodity, until the second Turkish occupation in the late nineteenth century, onions, peppers and white radishes were the only vegetables used. The cultivation of rice, which was recorded growing in Yemen in the fourteenth century, is a rare sight today.

Because of the inadequate rainfall, the crops have been of limited variety. However, the introduction of experimental farms and improvements in education, new vegetable crops are growing alongside the traditional grains. In certain areas vineyards are very successful, producing a great variety of grapes.

Many kinds of bread are made in the home. The finest is the wheat bread, *khubz*. The slightly leavened dough is first stretched across the *mukhabazah*, a kind of hard cushion made from palm fronds and cotton. It is then pressed on to the inside of a hot earthenware oven which is shaped like a cylinder and has a woodfire at its base.

Heavier breads made from barley, sorghum and lentils are placed on to the inside of the oven by hand, a dangerous procedure for the inexperienced.

The main meal of the day takes place anytime after the midday prayer. It can be a splendid occasion, particularly during wedding

celebrations or *Fid al-Fitr*, the holiday which marks the end of the fasting month of Ramadan.

The subtle combination of unrefined cereals dishes and fresh meat and vegetables cooked with local herbs, produces a nutritious meal, an example to the Western world with its all too often tasteless, heavy and over-refined diet.

The dining room is prepared by the womenfolk, who sit on the floor is covered with many vegetable side dishes. The bread is placed in a convenient corner in locally woven baskets.

The men of the family and guests enter after washing their heads and leaving their shoes outside. The traditional posture for eating is sitting on the left leg with the right forearm resting on the raised right

knee. One always eats with the right hand.

Shafout is usually the first course. This is a light maize porridge covered with slightly soured milk and mixed with spring onions, mint and parsley. The herbs give the dish a green tinge and have properties which stimulate the appetite.

Binat sahn (daughter of the house) follows. This is a light batter resembling Yorkshire pudding covered with honey and caraway seeds. The honey is sometimes replaced by mace or even just oil.

Although it seems unusual to have a sweet course near the beginning of the meal, it is so delicious that one must be very careful not to over-indulge, as the next course is the most famous of all Yemeni dishes—*hibbah*.

Hibbah is a herbal dip made from the ground seeds of fenugreek. These seeds are soaked in water to reduce their bitter taste, and then beaten to a white froth. This is served with a hot meat broth in a heavy stone dish. The host adds to the *hibbah* tasty portions from the numerous vegetable dishes including ladies' fingers, French beans, stuffed peppers and aubergines. All these ingredients he mixes together and the guests scoop it up with their bread.

The herbal properties of *hibbah* are numerous. Iron and phosphorus are abundant and it also acts as a stimulant. Often poorer Yemenis eat this traditional dip as their main meal with perhaps the addition of a meat and chicken follow, the *mada'ah*.

boiled in clay pots or roasted in a mud oven. Rosemary and thyme are added, producing a delicious and tender meat.

Although most villages women use the traditional methods of cooking, pressure cookers are becoming increasingly popular in the towns.

A light custard is then served, cooked with the addition of cardamom seeds which aid digestion after such a large meal. Once the meal is over, the guests do not linger. They are led by their host to the *haffa* (a large room usually at the top of the house with a panoramic view) where tea or coffee is served.

Some people prefer to chew the traditional green leaf of the *qat* and make the water pipe, known as the *mada'ah*.

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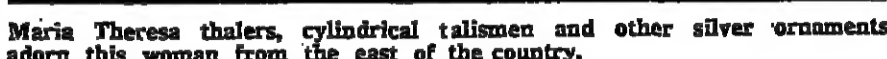
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هكذا هذا الاصل

The author is a fellow of Clare Hall, Cambridge, and lectures at Cambridge University and the Architectural Association in London.

evil eye. *Miklas* are cylindrical shaped containers; *hijab* are rectangular shaped ones, often set with an agate stone and trimmed with tiny bells. These boxes are worn as pendants on necklaces, belts and armbands, and often enclose messages from the Koran. Some of those messages can be taken out or changed, others are sealed for life.



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by Kathleen Partridge

In a land as mountainous as North Yemen, where three quarters of the population live in remote and scattered settlements of fewer than 250 people, one of the biggest problems of education is "delivering" it.

Explaining some of the difficulties faced by his department, Dr Abdel Karim al-Hiyami, the Minister of Education, told me: "Everything to do with education in Yemen can be regarded as a priority. More than 80 per cent of our people are still illiterate and out of a population of six million or so, only 300,000 children are receiving an elementary education."

The five-year plan allocates £140m to education—about 7 per cent of the total budget—and the Government hopes that this will at least provide a broad educational base on which to build. The programme is limited not only by financial resources but also by the chronic shortage of trained teachers in Yemen.

Already much has been achieved, compared with the dark days of the Imamate when only the sons of the rich received any education. Even that was very restricted, with the accent on Koranic instruction, for the imams feared—with reason—

that knowledge of the outside world would lead to discontent with the primitive and repressive conditions inside Yemen.

A few hand-picked young men were from time to time permitted to study abroad, mostly at military academies in Iraq and Egypt, while in the 1950s some Egyptian teachers were allowed into Yemen to set up a small number of secular schools. But it was not until after the 1962 revolution that schools were built in any numbers. Often provided by local subscriptions, they were more widespread in the south of the country, which was less affected by the seven-year civil war. Perhaps for this reason the level of literacy in the south is higher than in any other part of the country.

In the 1960s many more Yemenis went abroad, for almost unknown to the other Arab countries or to the communist bloc. There are educational establishments—especially in the Soviet Union—which cater specially for students from developing countries who lack the normal minimum qualifications.

"Their so-called degrees are hardly worth the paper

they are written on", one Western educationist told me, and I heard this view expressed a number of times in various contexts.

Others argue, however, that any level of skill is of value in a country with a desperate shortage of trained manpower.

After the revolution, the rulers of the newly proclaimed republic realized that education—from basic literacy through to specialized vocational training—was the key to the future development of their country. With the help of the Kuwait Fund a university was founded in Sana'a in the academic year 1970-71, staffed by Egyptian teachers, and a number of other educational institutions were set up with the help of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, China and other benefactors.

Educational thinking in Yemen has traditionally been deeply influenced by Egypt, and the syllabus taught in the schools is almost the same as the Egyptian one. Some observers feel that there is too great an emphasis on academic education for the needs of the country.

When the late President Hamid came to power in

Education a priority in land of scattered settlements

1974 he started a "correction movement" encompassing the whole of Yemen's development. A three-year plan was drawn up and this was followed by the present five-year plan. The Government hopes to increase the number of pupils in primary schools by 63 per cent by the end of the plan in 1981. The full primary course lasts six years and children begin at the age of six or seven.

Although education is theoretically free and available equally to boys and girls in coeducational schools, social and religious traditions have led to boys outnumbering girls in the classroom by 18 to one. In a country where child labour is taken for granted in shops, on farms and even in road-building, a high proportion of pupils of both sexes do not complete their primary studies, except among the middle classes.

The Sana'a, or contributions expected from parents towards books and other expenses in locally provided schools, sometimes inhibits the poorest families from sending their children to primary school. But on the whole parents seem to rate education highly and demand for schools and tea-

chers at present outstrips the Government's ability to provide them.

After primary school the next step up the educational ladder is the preparatory school, which pupils attend for three years. The Government hopes to increase the number of preparatory school children by 159 per cent during the period of the five-year plan. Next comes the secondary school, which also has a three-year course, and here the Government is aiming at an increase of 139 per cent in the number of pupils.

The Government is hoping for the biggest increase—297 per cent—in the relatively small number of students who graduate from elementary education and go on to technical school.

Centres for specialized and vocational training are being set up in all the governorates and there should be at least 22 by the end of the plan in 1981, including teacher-training colleges. At present few elementary school-teachers have any formal training.

At the top of the pyramid are the 2,500 or so students at Sana'a University, a figure which the plan aims to

double. Some 12 per cent of undergraduates are girls and the proportion is rising steadily. Most of the girls wear veils, as classes are mixed.

Not surprisingly in a country whose educational development is still in its infancy, there are vital gaps in the system. Sana'a University has no faculties of medicine or agriculture, but the foundation for both these will be laid during the term of the present plan and the Government hopes that they will become operational during the next plan period.

Many Yemeni students still go abroad for higher education. The British Council, for instance, sponsors a number of post-graduate students every year who come to Britain to study subjects of particular usefulness for their country's development. In the reverse direction, the council also provides English teachers and educational advisers to the Yemeni Government. The National Institute of Public Administration, for example, which was set up in 1971 to improve the quality of the Civil Service, has two British Council contract teachers on its staff.

At the other end of the scale are the millions of adult illiterates. The Government considers this a matter of much importance and is much concerned with the task of establishing a mass education in the country. Experts from his department are studying the methods used in India and other developing countries.

Yemen's programme to eliminate illiteracy is still at an exploratory stage. It has aroused much interest in the country. Dr Hiyami has been particularly pleased by the good response to the women. The Government hopes to reach some 50 adults to read by 1981.

Having got to grips with the Government is increasingly faced with a problem: how to curb the brain-drain. Already a number of Yemeni students are working in neighbouring oil-rich under-populated states—Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. It is difficult to see how this can be plugged.

Health service opens war against diseases

From the age of 43 a North Yemeni is living on borrowed time, according to official life expectancy figures. This is not surprising, considering the gaunt appearance of endemic diseases he or she has to run from the moment of birth. In a country where, until recently, any concept of hygiene or medical care was almost unknown and where preventive medicine is still in its infancy, the expression "survival of the fittest" is a grim reality.

To say that for the last 100 years the Yemenis have lived under the shadow of death is an exaggeration. During the protracted civil war of 1962-70 (which left some 200,000 dead), the present Government is aiming to spend £25m on health care over the period of the five-year plan. By 1981 the Yemen Arab Republic hopes to have increased total hospital beds by 74 per cent; to have set up 259 rural health units, 97 dispensaries and 37 health centres; and to have inoculated 400,000 children. Other related goals are to reduce tuberculosis by 20 per cent, bilharzia by 30 per cent and malaria by 50 per cent.

Before the present regime came to power in 1974, there was no organized health service and the country was medically speaking still in the Middle Ages. The few uncoordinated medical facilities that did exist were provided by United Nations-sponsored volunteers, small groups of missionaries and other voluntary groups from overseas.

Most of the clinics and hospitals they founded are now being absorbed into an integrated health service, although it will be a long time before North Yemen

can do without foreign finance and skills.

Under Imam Yahya, who was assassinated in 1948, very few European doctors were allowed into the country, and no Yemenis were permitted to go abroad to study medicine. The few hospitals were chronically short of trained staff, drugs and equipment, and the doctors were expected to devote themselves to the Imam, his family and friends. In the face of all these difficulties most European doctors gave up and left.

There was little improvement under Imam Ahmed, his son, who was notoriously mean. In the late 1950s he prevailed upon the Soviet Union to build him a hospital at Hodeida. When it was completed in 1962 he declined to pay for it. (The Chinese too were told to make the newly built Sana'a-Hodeida road away with them when they requested payment from him.)

The terrible suffering caused by the civil war brought many voluntary organizations to the area, but it was not until the late Colonel al-Hamidi seized power in 1974 that any serious attempt was made by a government to organize a proper health service.

The problems facing the Government are enormous. Not least, the geographical difficulty in reaching those in need in a mountainous country of scattered and often inaccessible hamlets.

Ignorance, overcrowding, malnutrition and low standards of personal and public hygiene create the conditions in which epidemics thrive, and every year

hundreds of children die from infectious diseases like gastro-enteritis, measles, whooping-cough and respiratory infections.

From the multitude of diseases endemic in Yemen, the Ministry of Health has drawn up a short-list of 15 which require priority action under the five-year plan. At the top of the list come the diarrhoeal diseases, but also included are tuberculosis, malaria, bilharzia, childhood infections such as measles and inflammatory diseases of the eye such as trachoma. An estimated 45 per cent of schoolchildren suffer from eye diseases.

The infant mortality rate is at present depressingly high overall, in spite of dramatic local improvements achieved by the mother-and-child clinics run by overseas volunteers. The official figure is 160 deaths for each 1,000 live births, but the Ministry of Health readily admits that this is only an approximate figure since births and deaths are not yet formally registered. (The equivalent figure for Britain is 18 per 1,000.)

The Koran instructs that babies should be breast-fed for two years, and in rural areas this is often carried out. Health workers find that such babies are often under-nourished because the mothers' milk supply is inadequate. Some experts believe that chewing the mildly narcotic gac leaf contributes to this deficiency, although this has not been proved. In the towns many mothers now prefer bottle-feeding. Apart from the risks of infection arising from unsterilized bottles,



A Yemeni nurse injects a schoolboy while his companion looks on.

the dangers of incorrect mixing are obvious when 90 per cent of women cannot read.

The Government is also faced by environmental problems with a direct bearing on health. Effective sewage disposal is almost unknown, as is refuse collection. Much of the country is short of water, but irrigation schemes tend to bring malaria and bilharzia in their wake. An added

hazard for the expatriate community—and for tourists—is hepatitis, although the local population seem to have built up a good immunity to this disease.

The Government recognizes that preventive medicine could dispose of a great many of its health problems, if only the medical and scientific facilities existed, together with the trained staff. In the meantime the accent must be, by necessity, on cure rather than on prevention.

The Government sees the training of staff as one of its most urgent tasks. The hospitals are staffed by Russians, Chinese, Swedes, Americans, Germans, Italians, Britons and various other nationalities, as well as by Yemenis. By common consent, the stand-

ard of local nursing is mixed to be low.

A nursing school was set up by the World Health Organization as long as 1958, but progress was slow because of the extremely low educational standards of the country. The first two years of the course were entirely to general education.

A three-year course was started in 1968 for students of whom who held the primary education certificate, the general level of education in the country is standard of nursing is low too. Meanwhile, nurses have only a "practical nurse" qualification, which they acquired simply by working as at a hospital.

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Britain in on the ground floor

by John Whelan

The pattern of British exports to North Yemen, up from \$9m in 1975 to £19.7m in 1976, tells only part of the story of British participation in Yemen's development.

The post-Ramadan August-September improvement in business has already brought success in one major construction project. Costain International and Amey Roadstone Construction have in a joint venture won a £19m contract to build an airport at Hodeida. Cable & Wireless, which is already involved in an earth satellite station at Ghuraff, near Sana'a, and on a 10-year franchise to run the country's external communications, will handle electronic and airfield control installations at Hodeida as a sub-contractor.

For Amey Roadstone the Hodeida contract is its first Middle East venture. Executives say that a pleasing side of the contract is that a \$15m loan, providing nearly half the finance, was awarded by the Iraqi Fund for External Development. The contract has been awarded reasonably quickly (tenders were returned in March) and drawn up according to the standard terms.

Amey expects to start work after Christmas although the port congestion at Hodeida may cause

delays. The award is all the more satisfying to British interests as the consultants are international Soft-servia of France and the Geneva-based International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

British consultants have blazed the trail into Yemen. Sir William Baker & Partners, which is bidding for a consultancy contract at Hodeida port, is also involved in agriculture. Yemen has a special advantage over most of the Arab peninsula in that its 6,570,000 population is based with less than 10 per cent living in the three main towns of Hodeida, Taiz and Sana'a.

Baker started work last October on a pre-feasibility study for irrigation development at Wedi Sudur which is expected to take five years. The Ministry of Overseas Development is engaged in similar work at Wedi Rima which a spokesman says, rather colourfully, is aimed at "reviving the corn crop referred to by Pliny and Herodotus as being plentiful in Arabia Felix".

Many of the opportunities for British participation are in food processing and agriculture according to the Sana'a embassy. Oscar Faber & Partners of St Albans are advising the Yemen General Grain Corporation on a national network of grain processing and grain storage units. Two contracts for a

silo and bagging plant at Hodeida and for civil works are out to tender returnable this month. The £21.8m project also involves a large contract for mechanical and bakery equipment which is being reduced to a short list of suppliers.

The richer pickings probably lie in basic services. Much interest has been shown by exporters in the appointment in July of British consultants Kennedy & Donkin as advisers to the Yemen General Electrical Corporation on a national power generation and grid system.

The nation's generating capacity, excluding private generators, is now only 17.5MW. Kennedy & Donkin have returned a preliminary report to the Yemen authorities and say the works are likely to entail a steam-powered generating station with a transmission system linking Hodeida and Sana'a with the possibility of later extension.

The new power station will probably come on stream by 1981 with Saudi and Kuwaiti finance. Among other consultants working in Yemen are Howard Humphreys, also of Britain, which are advising on the building of a sewerage system and a sewage treatment works for Sana'a.

North Yemen offers considerable incentives to British firms. The Government's investment law imposes few restrictions: there is an initial five-year tax holiday,

no duty on imported goods and agencies may be 100 per cent foreign. The Government publishes tenders from time to time but prefers the Central Planning Organization to shunt firms before inviting them to tender for specific projects. The major snag is the shortage of skilled labour and port congestion.

British air charter operators are also taking a lead in carrying freight to Sana'a. Kingsley Aviation Services, which is the British agent for Carpalux of Luxembourg, has a weekly DC-8 flight to Sana'a which started in March. IAS Cargo Airlines started a weekly service to Sana'a in August 1976. Both experienced some initial teething problems but the demand for air freight is continuing strong.

North Yemen is still at the start of its development programme and it seems that the construction sector has yet to develop. Firms like Arcon Building Exports, part of the Taylor group, are selling to Yemen but say it cannot yet be regarded as a growing market.

Much will depend on the direction of Saudi and Gulf aid but the rate of expansion is likely to accelerate as the impetus from the five-year development plan starts to be felt.

The author is on the staff of the Middle East Economic Digest.

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Ambitious targets set for road development

by Charles Boase

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Rough road to slough medieval skin

by Peter Hopkirk

For centuries, locked away behind its mountain ramparts, Yemen remained as remote and isolated from the outside world as Tibet. The few Western travellers who managed to penetrate to its interior found a medieval backwater, cut off from all material progress and liberal thought, and ruled over by autocratic, often barbaric, imams.

Its inhabitants were—and still are today—fiercely independent, and more like Gypsies than the Beduin of the Arabian peninsula. A Turkish general who once fought them declared admiringly: "All Europe could be conquered by such men."

Life continued with little change until 1962 when a group of Nasser-inspired young officers overthrew the last of the imams, who had been on the throne just a week. Believed by the revolutionaries to be lying dead in the ruins of his palace, the imam managed to escape and fled the capital, Sana'a, for the mountains of the north.

The tribes there rallied to his cause, and immediately the country was plunged into a civil war which was to cost some 200,000 lives and to last more than seven years. Today he lives quietly in exile in Kent.

For years before the coup which toppled him, the country had been in the cruel grip of his father, Imam Ahmad, the most repressive of all Yemen's rulers. Public beheadings, the amputation of hands and feet, and the chaining of prisoners to the walls of their dungeons were his method of maintaining order. The heads of those who had been executed were sometimes displayed on spikes on the walls of the capital, and severed hands of thieves nailed up as a warning to others.

To keep the tribes of his kingdom passive he introduced a system of hostages under which the sons of chieftains were held in his palace as a guarantee of good behaviour. When he went to Rome for medical treatment in 1959 he took some of these hostages with him. Villages suspected of harbouring agitators or

nationalists were ruthlessly destroyed.

Even his own family was not exempt. At least two of his sons, it is said, were chained up in their prison cells and one of his brothers executed. So concerned was he about his own safety that he had vital parts of tanks and other weapons belonging to his army removed and hidden in secret arsenals.

According to one authority he had large quantities of gold concealed in similar caches, the slaves who carried it there being subsequently executed. His father, who seems to have been little better, although accounts vary, was finally machine-gunned to death. Imam Ahmad was therefore taking no risks. Even so there were a number of attempts on his life, including one in which he is known to have been struck by five bullets.

On another occasion he was held prisoner in his palace by rebels. According to one account—his own—he seized a Bren gun from one of his captives and shot his way to freedom. Another version is that he bribed his guards, and then when safely back on his throne he docked the amount from their meagre pay. In the event, to everybody's surprise, he died in his bed of natural causes, albeit just in time.

Young officers plotting his downfall

For already the young officers had been plotting his downfall for many months with the intention of replacing the country's ancient theocracy with a modern republic. Indeed it appears that there was more than one group of plotters at work, one of them within his own family.

When they struck, therefore, it was against his son, Imam Muhammad al-Badr, who as Crown Prince had tried to introduce reforms, including the freeing of slaves. However, these had immediately been reversed by his father on his return home from abroad. Even during his solitary week on the throne, he had begun to institute changes, but it was too late.

On the night of September 26, 1962—today celebrated annually as Revolution Day—his palace in Sana'a was shelled by tanks which had encircled it. Next day the revolutionaries proclaimed the new Yemen Arab Republic. But their triumph was to prove short-lived. The young Imam escaped unhurt with four companions through a little-known gate in the palace wall and made his way secretly north.

The war that followed turned out to be much more than a contest between the royalists and the republicans for control of a little-known and unimportant country. Quick to come to the support of the royalist cause were the Saudis, who viewed the conflict as a showdown between the conservative elements in the Arab world like themselves and those who, manipulated by Nasser, aimed to sweep them away. Only five days before the coup Cairo Radio had warned King Saud that he and King Hussein of Jordan were "just as dead as Imam Ahmad but not yet buried."

The Egyptians, who were almost certainly behind the coup in the first place, immediately offered military assistance to the republicans, and within days paratroops and arms were pouring into Hodeida, the country's principal port. At the height of the war the Egyptian expeditionary force totalled some 60,000 men. Most observers believe that, with his eyes on its oil resources, Nasser's aim was to carry the revolution through into Saudi Arabia with its sparse population and meagre defence capacity.

Reporters from Western newspapers made their way from Saudi Arabia to the royalist cave headquarters, and soon the imagination of the world was caught by the romantic vision of a king deprived of his throne by the armed might of President Nasser fighting to recover it. A public relations campaign was hired by the royalists to help to promote their cause, and there was a stiffening of foreign advisers and mercenaries in their ranks.

The republican cause was not helped in the eyes of the world by the Egyptians' use of gas against innocent

villagers in 1963, 1966, and again in 1967 shortly before their evacuation of the country. One British reporter who reached the first village to be so attacked a full month afterwards reported that he could hear the agonised coughing of the victims from some distance away. The use of gas by the Egyptians was confirmed by a Red Cross team which visited one of the villages after it had been bombed by Russian-bulk aircraft flown by Egyptian pilots, although this was denied by Egypt.

Until the ceasefire came about in 1970 the war ebbed and flowed, marked by long periods of stalemate, attempts by the United States and others to negotiate a settlement, the departure of the Egyptians after their defeat in the June, 1967, war, and an unsuccessful 70-day siege of Sana'a by the royalists.

Opposing sides were reconciled

Three years after both Saudi Arabia and Egypt had withdrawn their support, the opposing sides were reconciled. The Government which emerged was a coalition of moderate republicans and royalists, excluding the Imam and his family who went into exile in Britain.

In June, 1974, a 10-member military Command Council, led by the late Lieutenant-Colonel Ibrahim al-Hamdi, seized power in a bloodless coup. Colonel al-Hamdi, after assuming the presidency, explained to the nation that the armed forces had taken over because they saw the country "advancing towards a sea of blood," meaning another civil war.

He promised that elections would be held and said that he would hand over "to anyone chosen by the people". At the time of his assassination, on the afternoon of October 11, no elections appeared in sight. However, most Western observers in Sana'a agreed that, in a country without any tradition of Western-style democracy, government power was probably in the best hands available.



A herd of camels in the arid Tihama, or lowlands.

Haven of traditionalism saved from oblivion

North Yemen has been called the last refuge of those who seek the Arabia of old. It is certainly true that on a peninsula where so much has been bulldozed into oblivion, this mountainous Arab state can still offer the visitor unique architecture, medieval towns and villages which have hardly changed over the centuries, and extraordinary natural beauty.

With its cool and fertile valleys, it has little in common with the desert lands that occupy most of the rest of the Arabian Peninsula or, for that matter, anywhere else in the Middle East. In terms of scenery and flora it is more like a piece of East Africa transplanted bodily into Arabia.

To stand looking down upon the great Wadi Dar, a magnificent valley not far from Sana'a, is like finding a lost civilisation. Ancient stone and mud villages climb up the mountainsides, at the feet of which spreads a rich carpet of gardens and smallholdings, perhaps the greenest and most peaceful scene anywhere in the Arab world.

Apart from the intrusion of the car, a handful of modern hotels and fairly good roads between its main centres, most of the country still belongs to the Middle Ages.

With the twentieth century hammering on the door, however, before too long North Yemen will surely look much like any other mountainous land. Anyone anxious to see this beautiful country and its attractive people should not put off his visit too long, although the Government declares its intention of preserving as much as possible of the nation's tradition and architecture. Nor must he expect to find there the comforts available in some other Middle Eastern countries, or in neighbouring East Africa. In many respects, North Yemen is still very primitive.

It is also far from cheap, although officially on the poor list of countries in the world. For the flood of remittances from Yemeni guest-workers in Saudi Arabia and elsewhere has resulted in high inflation.

A double room in one of the three or four hotels considered suitable for Western visitors will cost between £15 and £30 a night. Restaurants, as known in the West, are almost non-existent, and visitors are confined to eating in their hotel restaurants where a somewhat indifferent meal will cost a minimum of £5 a head.

Once out in the villages, however, life becomes cheaper, and much more rugged. Outside the few larger towns there are no hotels, and the visitor will have no choice but to accept the hospitality of local people who very likely will refuse to accept any payment.

Unless he gets about on local buses or "service" taxis—not that easy unless he has a smattering of Arabic—the visitor will be forced to hire a car or taxi. Depending on the age of the vehicle, this can cost anything up to £100 a day with driver. A new Mercedes taxi will have cost its owner about £10,000, an investment which has to be

earned back before rugged roads have taken their toll.

Well-off friends of mine who went to North Yemen recently, taking with them what they considered sufficient money to pay for their fortnight, found to their great embarrassment that they had run short and had to borrow from the British Embassy in Cairo.

Nor is getting to North Yemen that easy. There are no direct flights yet, although Yemen Arab Airlines are negotiating a service between Sana'a and London. The alternatives at present for getting there from London include Sudan Airways (via Khartoum), Syrian Arab Airways (via Damascus), Saudia (via Jeddah), and Ethiopian Airlines (via Addis Ababa).

Some of these routes involve changing aircraft at the intermediate point; others an overnight stop. Connections can also be picked up in Cairo.

With the introduction of direct flights from London and the completion—in three years—of the new Hilton Hotel in the capital, the somewhat bleak tourist picture may begin to improve. In all, there are now scheduled the first of which—the Sheba—is scheduled for completion next June. A large annex is being built for the Sana'a Hotel, the capital's newest and most expensive hotel.

At present there are only 350 beds of international standard in the country, though a thousand more should be added during the present five-year plan. Most tourists today are what the Government describes as "culture oriented", meaning that they come to see the classic Arabian architecture, traditional silver jewellery, folklore, wildlife and natural beauty, rather than to lie on the beach or indulge themselves gastronomically.

They usually travel in small package groups, some 80 per cent of them from France, which is the pioneer of North Yemen tourism. Only a few hundred British tourists visit the country each year, despite the interest shown in its way of life and flora by British scholars.

The small scale of tourism is explained partly by lack of hotels and other facilities, but also because the Government has not yet made any serious attempt to publicise the country's many attractions. As a result few travel agents have much idea about the country.

One British tour operator which takes occasional parties to Aden and Duan, of Soho Square, London, its 13-day tour takes in Sana'a, Wadi Dar, Sada'a (in the north), Taiz, Marib—once the capital of the Queen of Sheba—and other spots.

Because of the high cost of everything (the Tourist Board calculates that the average visitor this year will have spent about \$70 a day), many prospective visitors may feel it wise to make a package tour, with most of their expenditure paid in advance.

However, until better tourist facilities have been established, North Yemen is perhaps best suited to the visitor with "specialist" interests, such as botanists

and ornithologists, who are used to roughing it a little.

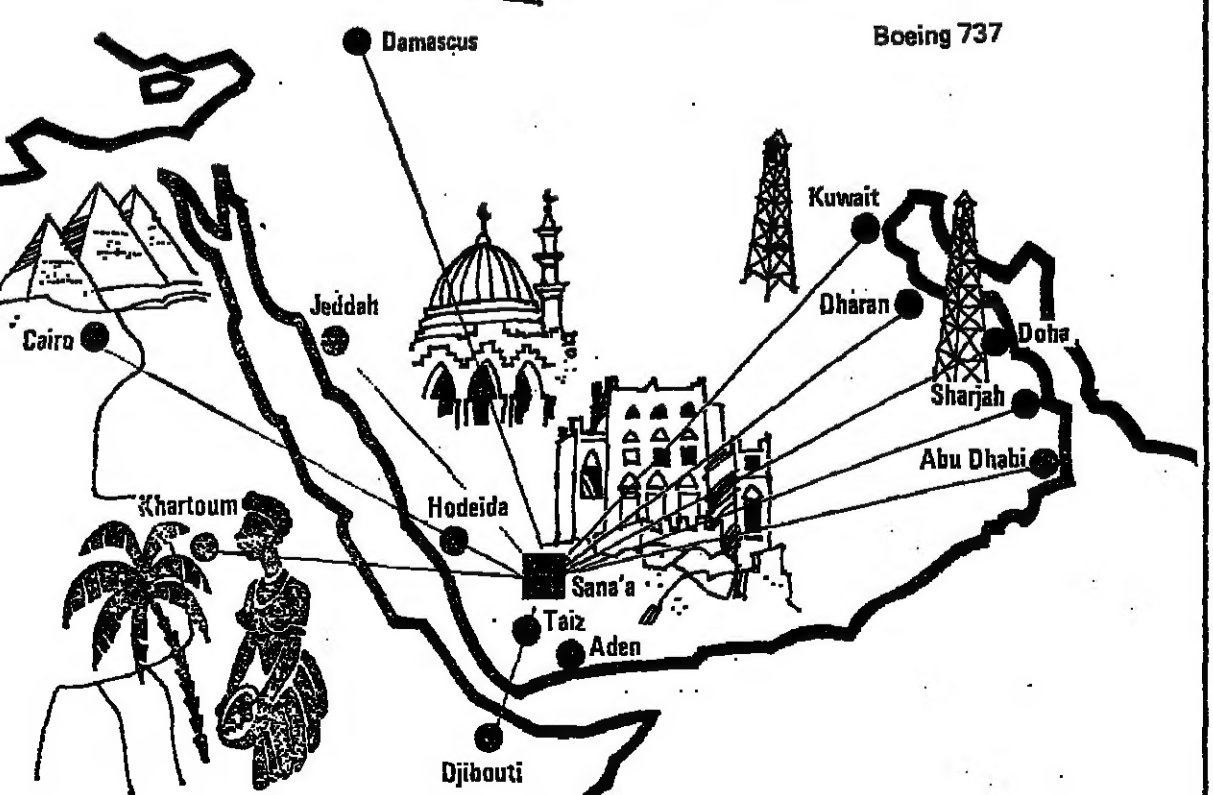
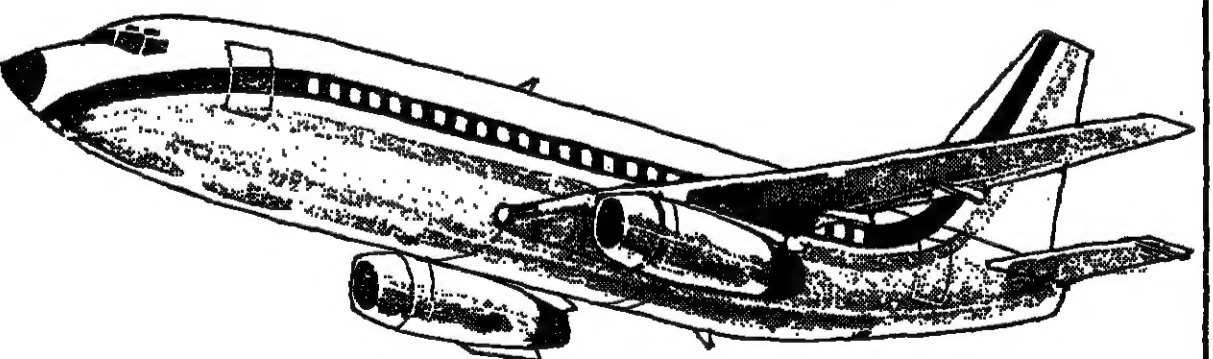
In the course of the five-year plan the Government hopes to develop the potential of its Red Sea coast for swimming, underwater fishing, sailing and other marine pursuits, including the construction of a tourist village at Hodeida.

Health is a factor which must be borne in mind

when visiting North Yemen, since health care and sanitation are still at a somewhat primitive stage.

The determined visitor will not be put off by the long catalogue of obstacles and difficulties. North Yemen is a fascinating land with a considerable tourist future, perhaps more like that of Nepal than Spain.

Yemen Airways



Yemen Airways Corporation

Zubery Street, Sana'a, Y.A.R.
Telephone: 8621/7
Telex: 204

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Sana'a; Telephone 5879,
Taiz; Telephone 2227
Hodeida; Telephone 2388

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